

GIANT FULL-COLOR PINUP OF DUSTY RHODES!

August 1981
\$1.50

DELL
04683



PRO Wrestling

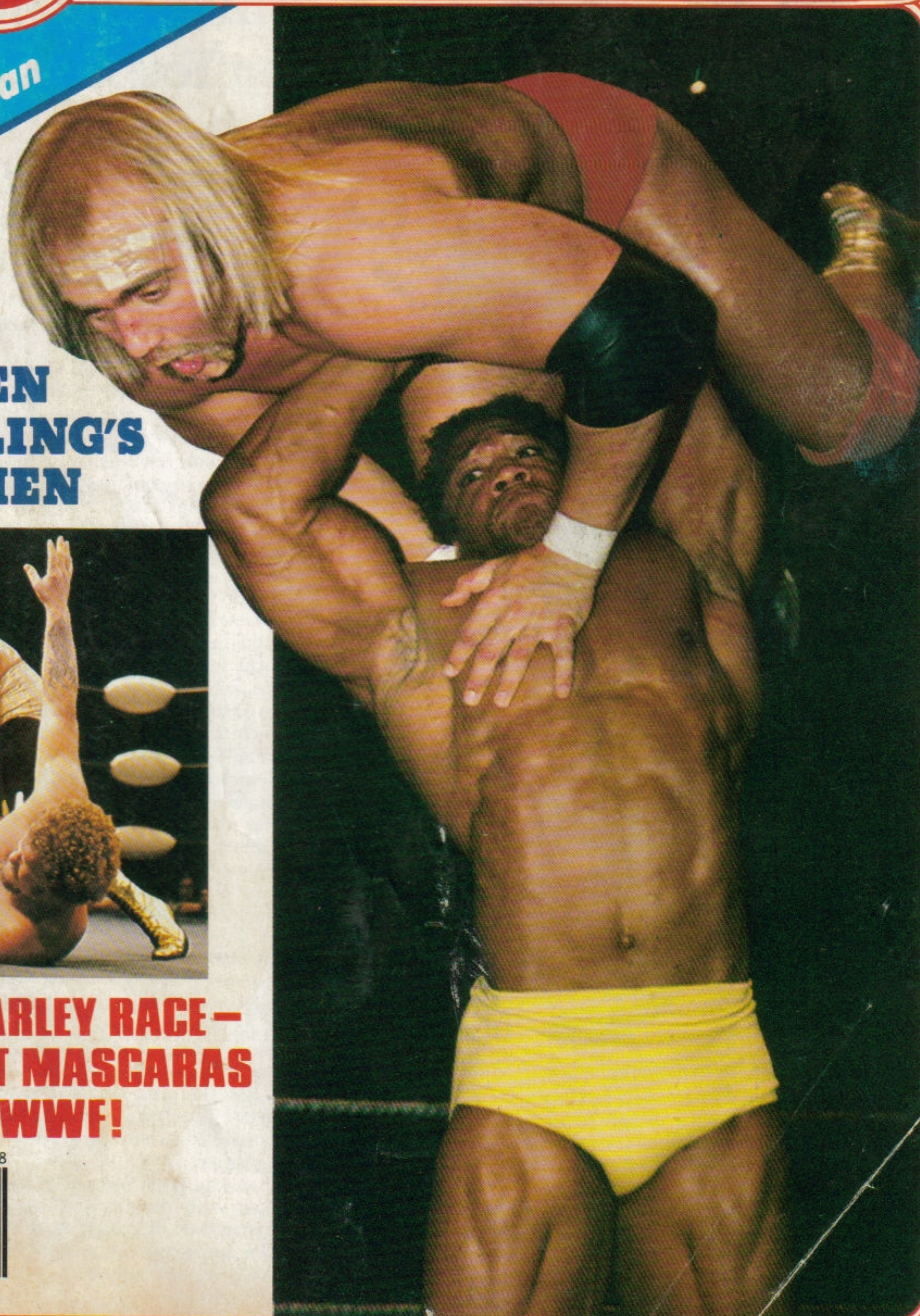
ILLUSTRATED

Tony Atlas
vs. Hulk Hogan

**THE
WAR
BETWEEN
WRESTLING'S
SUPERMEN**



**HITMAN HARLEY RACE—
MISSION: GET MASCARAS
OUT OF THE WWF!**



KING'S COURT

By Peter King

NEVER HAD AN arena felt so empty. The monstrous Memphis Auditorium was filled only with empty seats. In the center was a wrestling ring, looking lonely in the vast emptiness.

There were less than 10 people in the entire building. A television camera crew, a still photographer, a ring announcer, PWI's Bill Apter, and

myself were the only ones in attendance. Oh yes, there were two other people present—Terry Funk and Jerry Lawler.

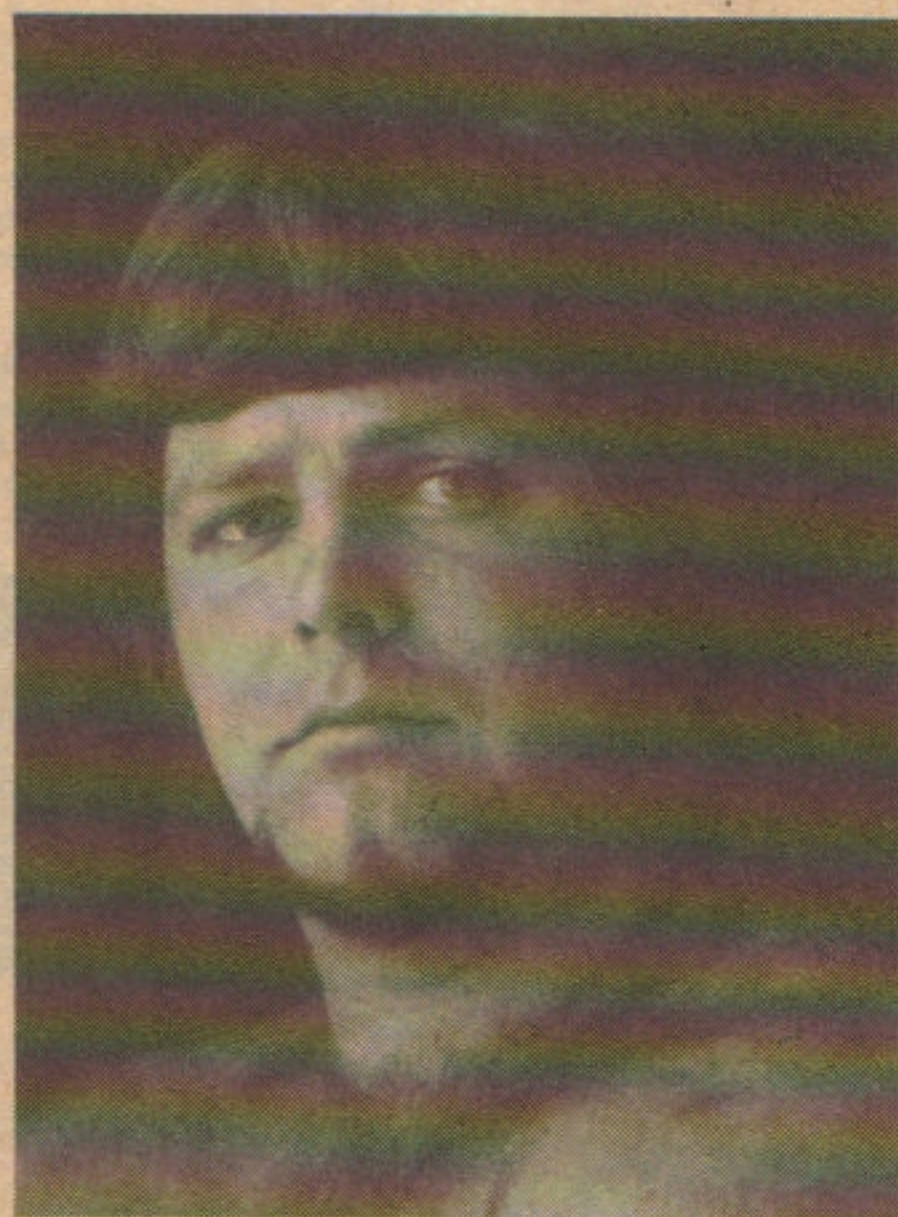
Funk and Lawler were meeting in perhaps the strangest wrestling match in history. It was a special challenge bout, and because no one knew where or when the match would be held, tickets couldn't be sold. In a day when



The war between Terry Funk and Jerry Lawler, one that has raged for many years, is hotter than ever now. Lawler and Funk grappled in the emptiness of the Memphis Auditorium in front of less than 10 people.

many athletes are only concerned with gate receipts and salaries, Funk and Lawler couldn't care less about money. What each man wanted was revenge.

When the two wrestled, it was like watching animals in a laboratory. Without any shouts of encouragement from fans, the match seemed more like a quiet scientific experiment than a sporting event. But if the amount of noise from the stands was less, the volume of sound coming from the ring was louder than I had ever heard it.



Jerry Lawler, the "King of Memphis," says that contrary to what Funk has been saying, Jerry has never been hesitant to battle him.

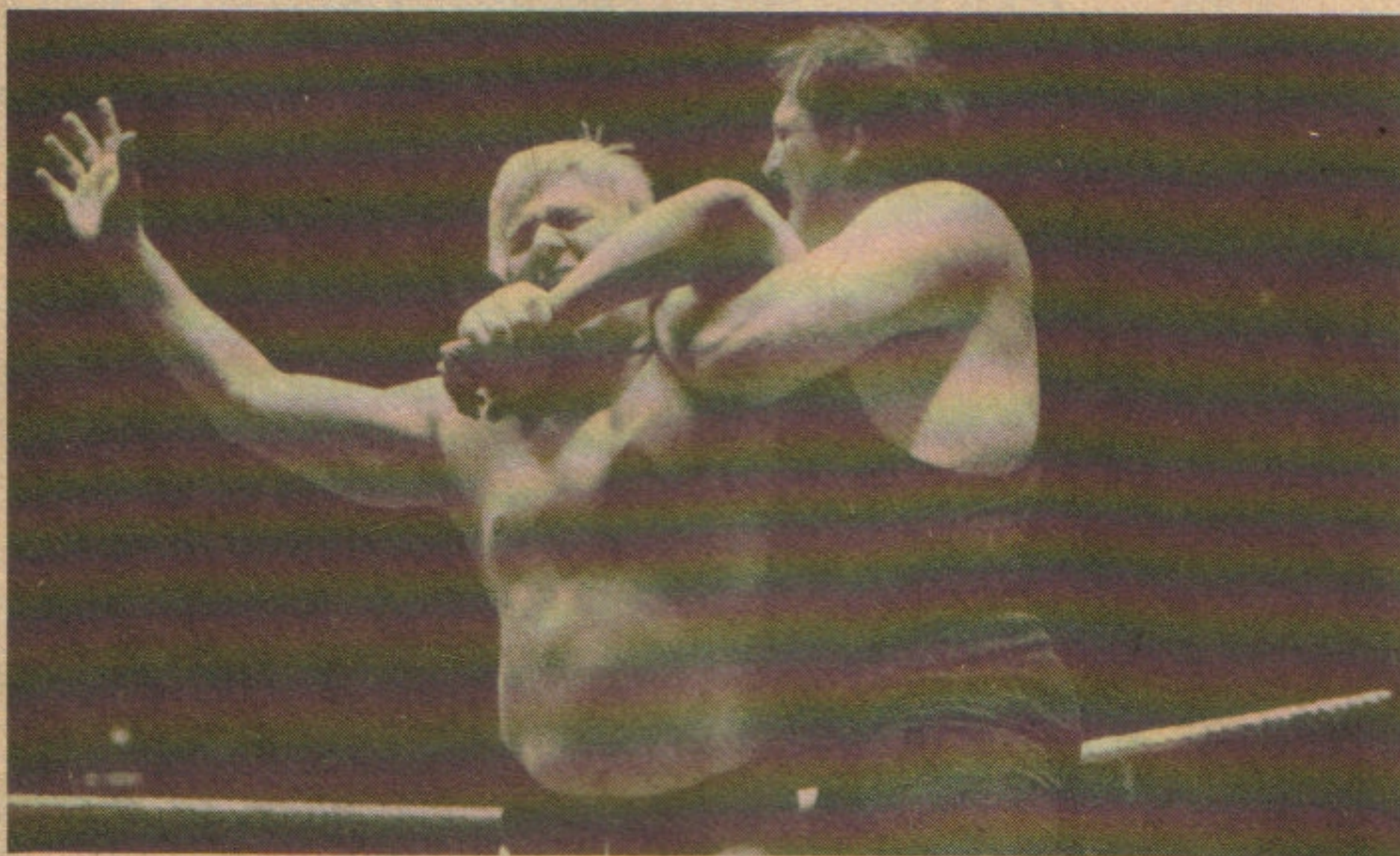
Punches and kicks reverberated through the empty arena like echoes in a canyon. The screams of pain from both men were so loud, I wondered how either could survive. I had never realized just how brutal this sport of wrestling can be.

The match ended when Funk was hit in the head by the ringstairs, which Lawler later hurled at him from outside the ring. Funk was screaming, "Stop the match, my eye, I'm going blind!" The ring

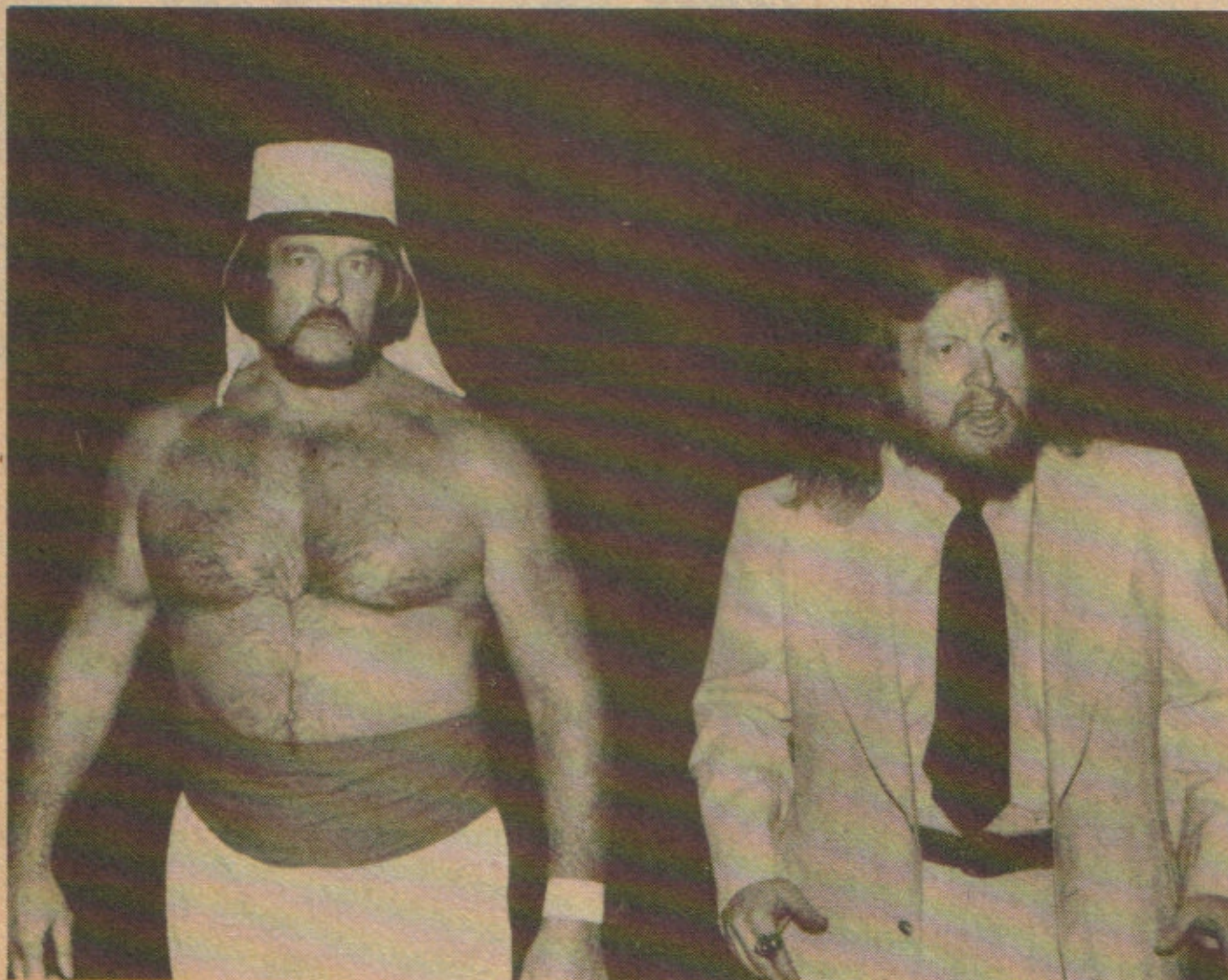
(Continued on page 53)

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter



Sgt. Slaughter applies the cobra clutch on Pat Patterson. Slaughter's offer of \$5,000 to any man who can break the hold still stands. Of course, Patterson claims he has already broken the hold on TV.



Jacques Goulet is led into the ring by his manager, Sir Oliver Humperdink. Goulet won the Southern title from Sweet Brown Sugar with the aid of an illegal, blinding substance.

THE OFFER HAS stood for several months now and still no wrestler has been able to collect the \$5,000 Sgt. Slaughter promised to the man who could break his deadly cobra clutch. "All these privates in the WWF said they could break the hold," says Slaughter laughing. "No one has even come close (though Pat Patterson might disput that claim). If I was paid five grand for every private bum that couldn't get out of the cobra, I'd be a multi-millionaire."

Rick Steamboat is now after *two* titles: the Mid-Atlantic championship he recently dropped to Ivan Koloff and the United States championship held by Roddy Piper. Which title would he value most? "That's hard to say," Rick says. "I'd like them both. But I would settle for the Mid-Atlantic belt, just to get back at Koloff."

With a little bit of help from his manager, Sir Oliver Humperdink, Sgt. Jacques Goulet has captured the Southern title from Sweet Brown Sugar. Sugar, unfortunately, may have lost more than just the title. Goulet threw a packet of medicated powder into the masked man's eyes, causing damage that is hoped to be temporary. While many eyewitnesses saw Humperdink slip Goulet the packet, Humperdink is claiming that Sugar actually brought the packet into the ring himself. As we all know, Humperdink is not in the habit of telling the truth—are you Humpy?

(Continued on page 62)

DRESSING CONFIDENTIAL ROOM

By Stu Saks

BARRY WINDHAM HAS been done a grave disservice. Unfortunately, lying in a hospital bed, he is in no position to complain. Not that his feelings matter any. The NWA has made its decision, and trying to change that is like trying to win the Indy 500 in a Toyota. It can't be done.

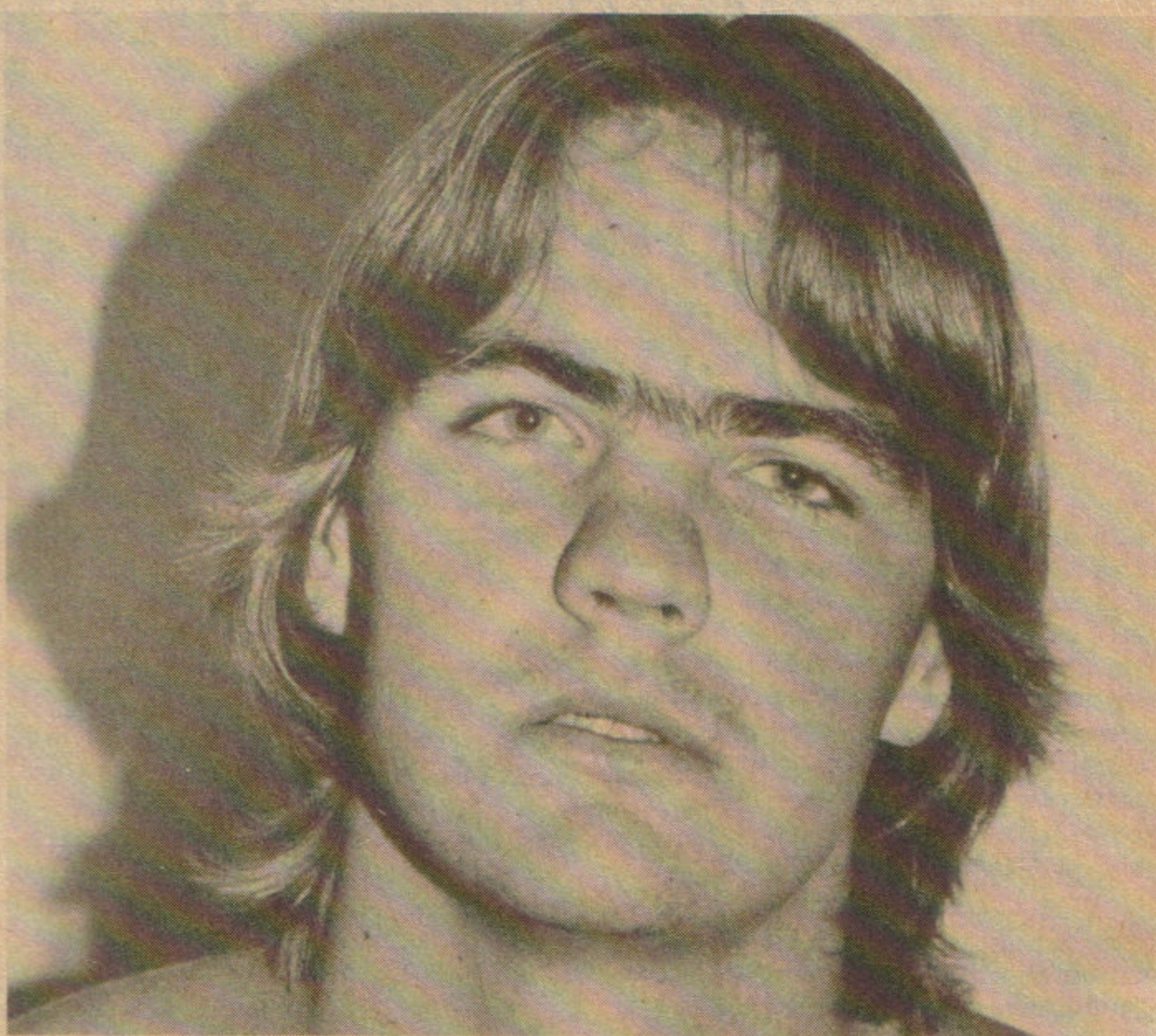
Barry Windham held the Florida championship for just under three months. He did not lose the title in the ring; he lost it in that hospital bed.

"What can I say?" Windham asked. "The NWA does what it feels is right."

Barry is a great sport, but he is being taken advantage of—and he knows it. He also knows that at this early stage of his career, he could do himself a great deal of damage by speaking out against what's happening to him. He would eventually like another chance to wrestle for the NWA title and he doesn't want to jeopardize that opportunity by making waves now.

The fact of the matter is that if NWA champion Harley Race was laid up with an injury, the Alliance would never consider stripping him of his title. This opinion is backed up by a ranking NWA official, who demanded his name not be revealed.

"You are absolutely right," he said. "The NWA would not strip Harley Race of his title. And it's



Barry Windham had his Florida championship taken from him after his disabling automobile accident. Stu Saks feels that the NWA is taking advantage of Windham and would not have stripped the title from a veteran rulebreaker under the same circumstances.

not because he is NWA champion. It's because he is Harley Race. If Dory Funk Jr. held the NWA title, we would not strip him. If the Mongolian Stomper was champion, he would not be stripped. But if Barry Windham was NWA champion, he *would* have the belt taken away if he could not defend it for any length of time."

Without coming right out and saying it, the official was making a

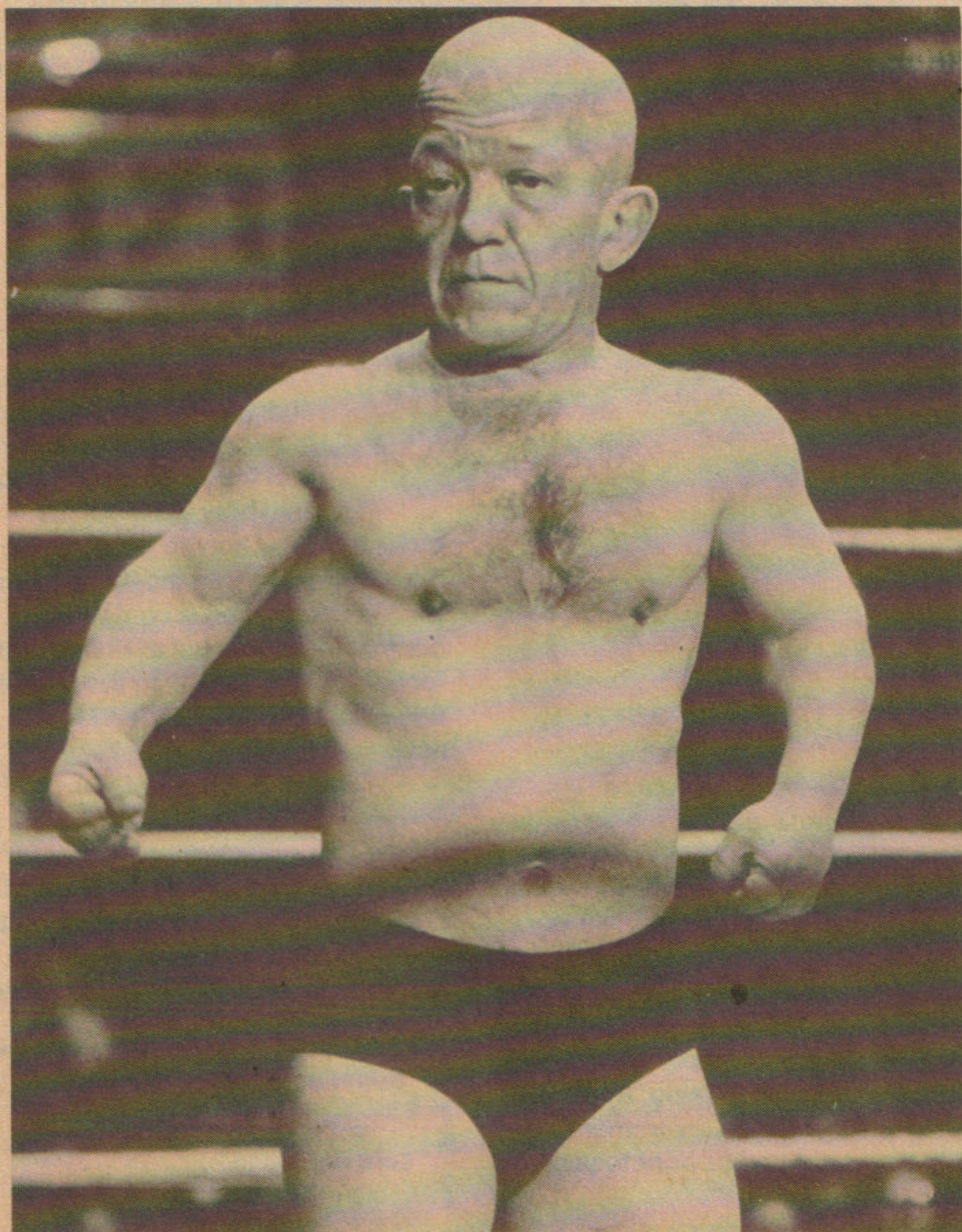
very distressing point. The NWA favors its veteran wrestlers. Or, even more distressing, it is intimidated by them.

Before his unfortunate accident, Windham was scheduled to defend the Florida championship against Dory Funk Jr. When Barry informed the NWA that he would be unable to make that defense, the NWA told him that it would have

(Continued on page 64)

A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY STEVEN FARHOOD



Though not blessed with normal height, Sky Low Low is a big man. He is big in determination, he is big in courage, and most of all, he is big in heart. Steve Farhood salutes one of the greatest athletes of our time.

NOT MANY OF us can say we do something better than anyone else in the world. I feel I'm a pretty damn good wrestling writer, but I'm not the best; that title belongs to the guy two desks down with the bloodshot

eyes and the breath that travels across three zip codes.

Some people are the best at trivial things: fixing a typewriter ribbon, making paper airplanes, whistling for taxicabs. Maybe these things aren't too

impressive, and they certainly won't make anybody millionaires, but there is an undeniable pride in knowing you're number one.

In Montreal, I spent some time with someone who is unquestionably the best at what he does: Sky Low Low, the greatest midget wrestler in the history of the sport. Sky has seen it all in a long, wonderful career. He has been a champion and he has been a failure. He has been a rulebreaker and a scientific star. He has been treated like a hero and has been ridiculed by insensitive fans because of his unfortunate handicap. The man is a battler. And after a brief retirement, he has decided to come back.

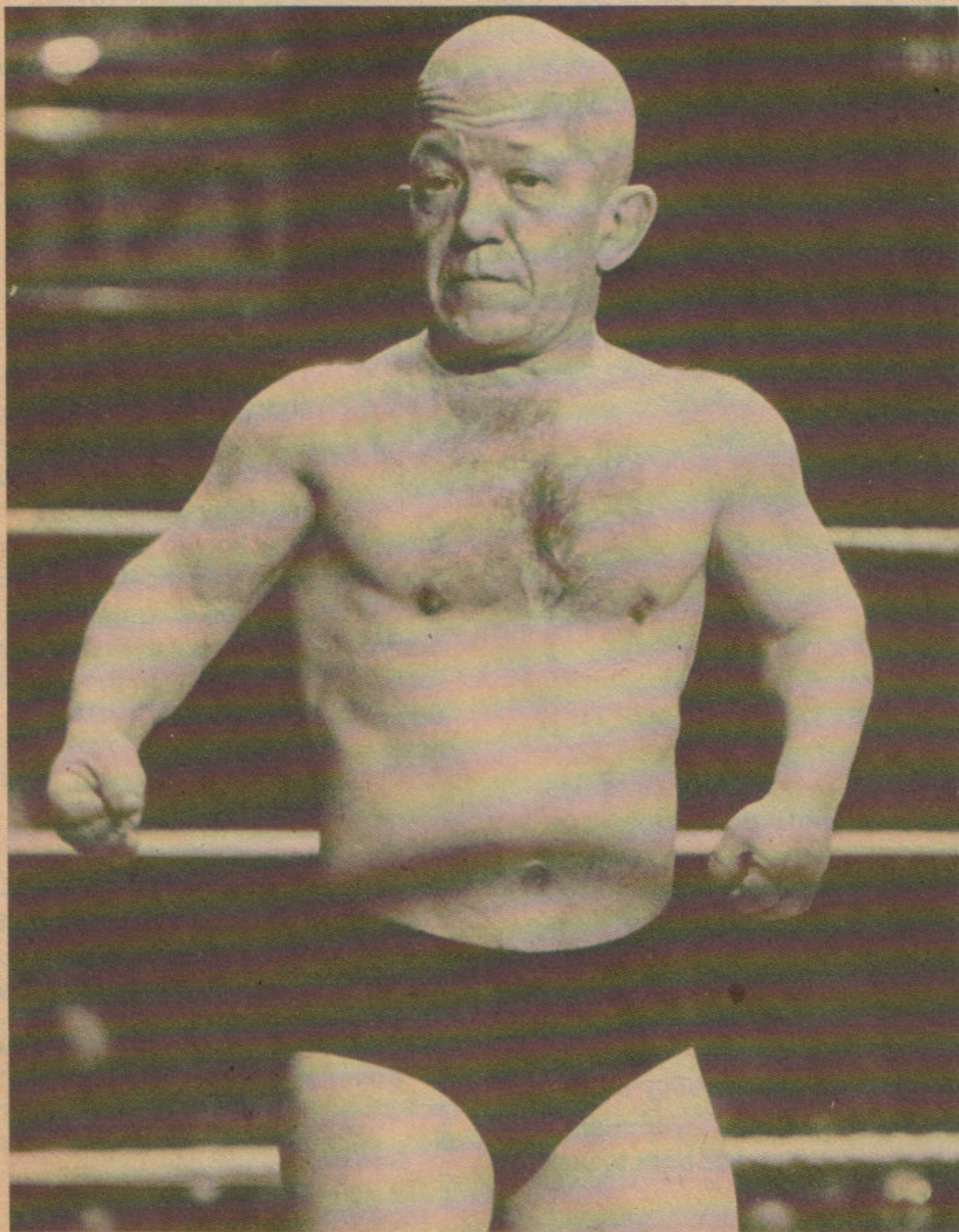
"Wrestling is my life," Sky said while we were enjoying a beer at Thursday's, a popular watering hole. "A long, long time ago, when I was a young man without direction, wrestling gave me a reason to go on, an identity. Since I stopped, I've felt sort of lost. I have enough money to live comfortably, so I'm not going back for that. It's just the thrill of climbing through those ropes, the thrill of defeating an opponent, the thrill of... victory."

For Sky, all too often his successes in the ring were necessary to erase the embarrassment and humiliation he constantly encountered in public life.

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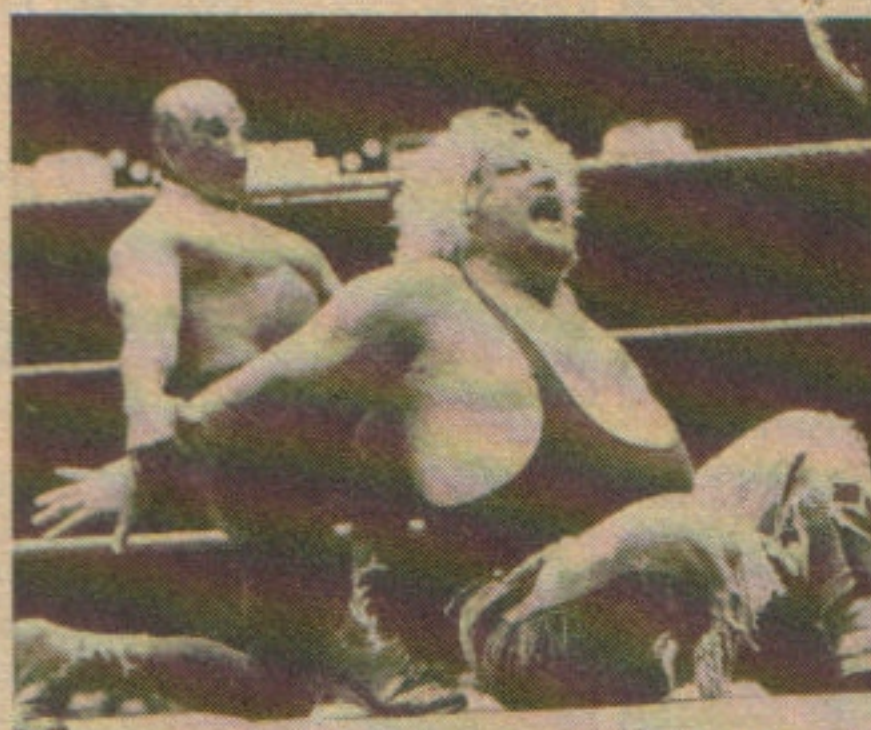
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THE MORGENSTEIN REPORT

By Gary Morgenstein

MIL MASCARAS BACK IN WWF!

Now WWF wrestling fans have that rarest of opportunities. So many sports fans must learn and understand legends through tales of others. They must read books or watch films or see pictures of those men back when they were great. Now WWF fans can observe a legend first-hand. Mil Mascaras is surely one of the top three or four wrestlers who ever lived. His aerial maneuvers are simply stunning. His grace under pressure is simply amazing. And his masks are, well, his

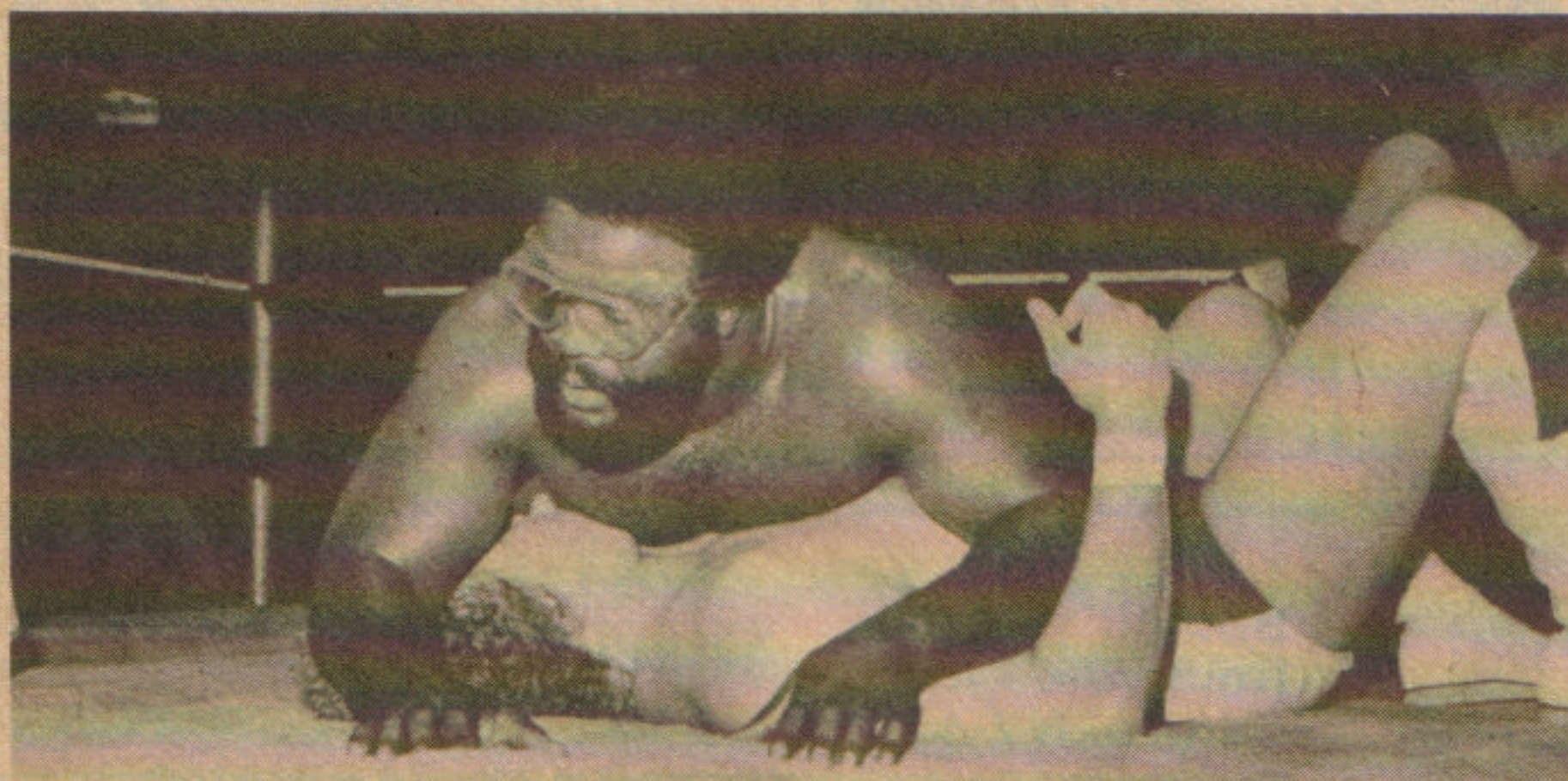


MASCARAS VS. MOONDOG KING

masks must be seen to be believed. I, for one, welcome Mil back to the WWF and hope he makes short order of some of the big-mouthed punks in this territory.

THE VON RASCHKE- BLACKWELL WARS

Baron Von Raschke and Crusher Blackwell are involved in a brutal feud in the AWA. And this is why: Blackwell and John Studd mercilessly attacked Mad Dog Vachon, resulting in his hospitalization. Von Raschke, an old comrade of Vachon's, learned of this attack and vowed vengeance. Now Von Raschke is chasing Blackwell throughout the AWA, seeking bloody revenge. I have to admit I'm on the Baron's side. I don't like that Blackwell, and it's about time someone taught him a lesson.



JUNKYARD DOG VS. FREEBIRD GORDY

DOG RUNS WILD IN GEORGIA

I always liked and respected Junkyard Dog. As far as I'm concerned, here's a guy with enormous physical and

emotional courage. All fans are by now familiar with Dog's incredible courage in overcoming blindness when he wrestled in Louisiana. Now Dog has involved himself in a bitter feud with The Fabulous

Freebirds in Georgia. Along with Ted DiBiase and Robert Fuller, Dog has been devoting himself almost exclusively to tag team competition. I say to the Dog, work more on your individual action. I've always believed that Junkyard Dog has the makings of a world champion. He has that rare capacity to transcend mere wrestling to be something more. Only if Dog gets out of tag team wrestling and into individual wrestling can he ever hope to realize those limitless ambitions. Hopefully Dog takes this advice and goes full-steam ahead toward the world title. Look out, Harley Race.

(Continued on page 58)

If you wish to contribute to Shocket's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
Box 48
Rockville Centre, N.Y.
11571

OFF THE ROPE

By Dan Shocket

BEFORE BEGINNING THIS month's column, I would like to announce a new fan club. Some months ago I instituted "Morons for Steamboat," an organization of people who persisted in writing their worship of Steamboat's mediocrity. Today, we add to this a new club: "Cretins for Rich." Anyone writing to me about this confused clown can be assured his letter will immediately be thrown out. So you can save your 18¢. You'll need all your pennies to hire a keeper to tie your shoelaces. Now, on to this month's letters.

Dear Sir:

I have been a wrestling fan for many years, and I have seen many bloody battles. However, the one I saw in Georgia with Ted DiBiase vs. The Freebirds was the worst act of brutality I have ever seen.

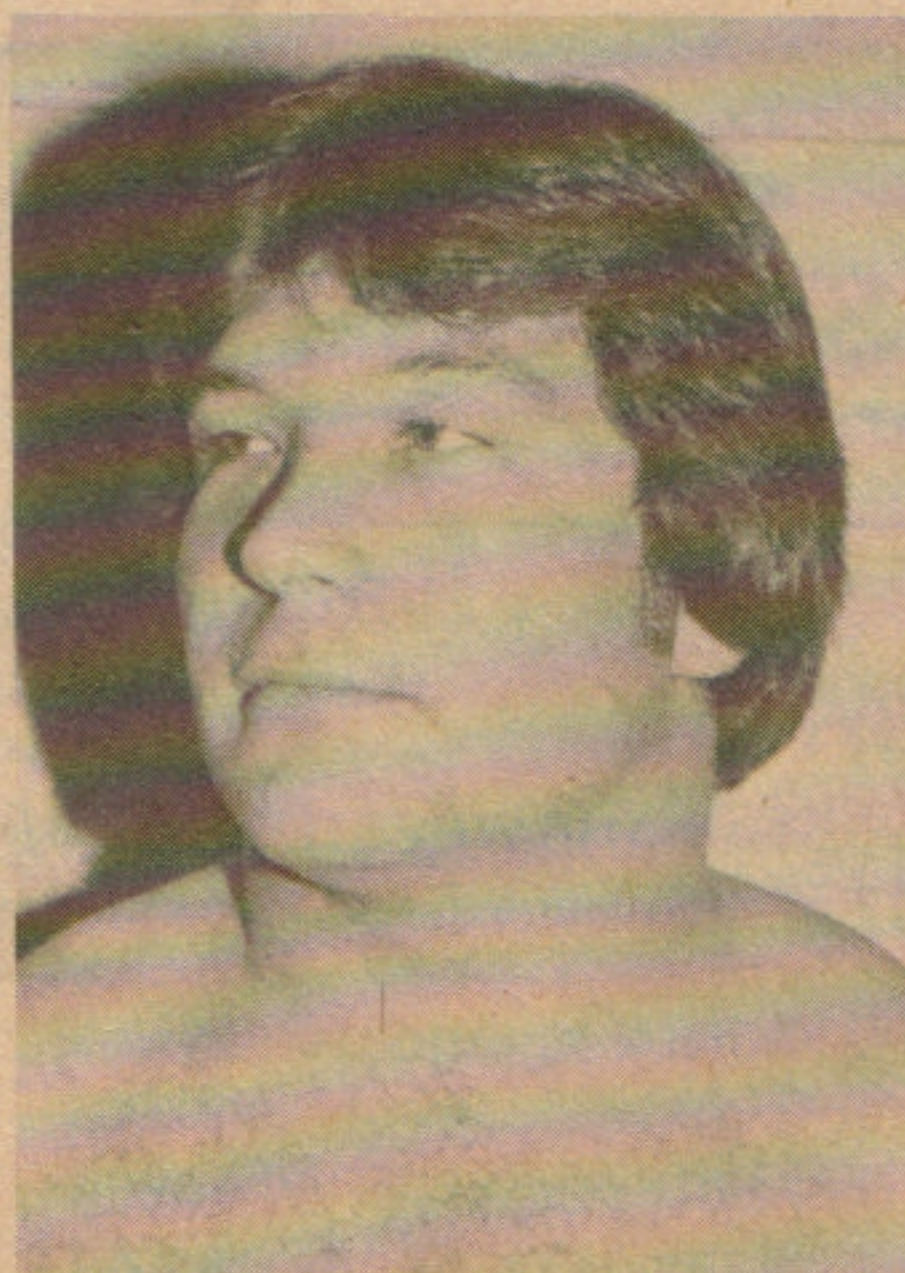
The Freebirds should have their wrestling licenses taken away. I hope they all get whippings. And as for this Michael Hayes character, if he's so tough, why doesn't he get into the ring? I'm sure Tommy

"Wildfire" Rich will take him on. Ted DiBiase should be proud that he has true friends and fans. He'll always be a champion to me.

RHONDA GAMBLE
Houston, TX

Dear Madam:

Wrestling is a business, not only a sport. The "Freebirds" know this and act accordingly. Ted DiBiase, his friends and his fans are like wormslime, not



So Ted DiBiase is a champion in Rhonda Gamble's eyes? I think she'd better start wearing glasses.

people who truly understand what wrestling is all about. That Ted DiBiase is a champion in your eyes means as little as your evaluation of Tommy Rich.

Dear Mr. Shocket,

All right, Backlund will get beaten. You will go bragging about it, but before you do why don't you give him the credit he deserves? He has beaten all the top contenders such as both Samoans, George Steele, Swede Hanson, Ken Patera, and many others. Give Backlund some support rather than urging him on to defeat.

ALEXANDER MUECK
Massapequa, NY

Dear Mr. Mueck,

I always give Bob Backlund the credit he deserves. I also acknowledge that Backlund couldn't wrestle his way out of a paper bag with the help of the referees and commissioners, men who find it necessary to have a champion who is constantly being squashed under their thumbs. Backlund was, is, and always will be, a disgrace to professional athletics.

Dear Dan,

You're always wrong! There is no way in the world that a flipped-out person like Terry Funk can stop Dusty Rhodes from being a champion. No, Dusty doesn't hold a title belt now, but deep down in his heart he is a true champion. So stop taking up for the bad guys, you jerk!!!

GREG CAILLOUET
Kaplan, LA

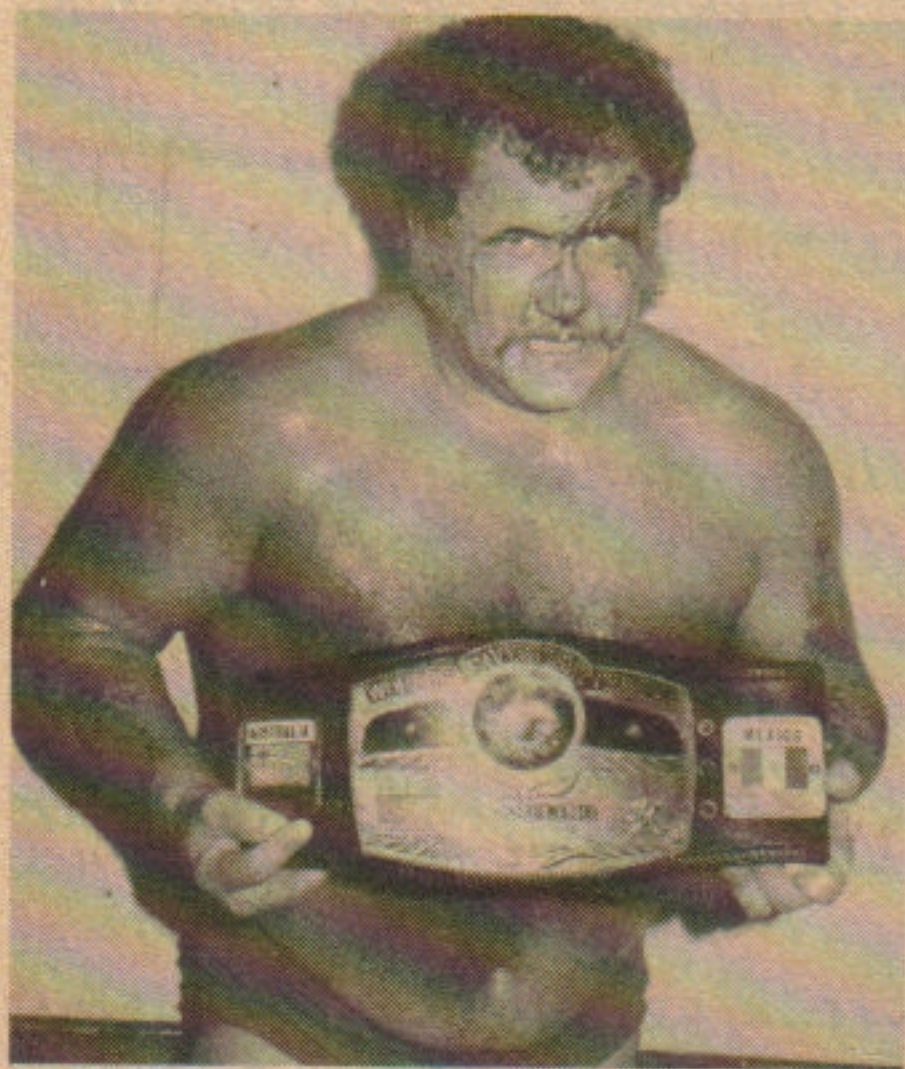
Dear Greg,

It amazes me that anything has penetrated through Dusty's fat to get to his heart. The facts show that Terry Funk indeed got the title away from Dusty Rhodes by setting him up for Harley Race. The record also shows that Dusty was unable to get back the title even though he was given more chances than any other wrestler in history. Dusty will always have fame and his fans. He will not have a history of a title reign or a place in the record books.

Dear Mr. Shocket,

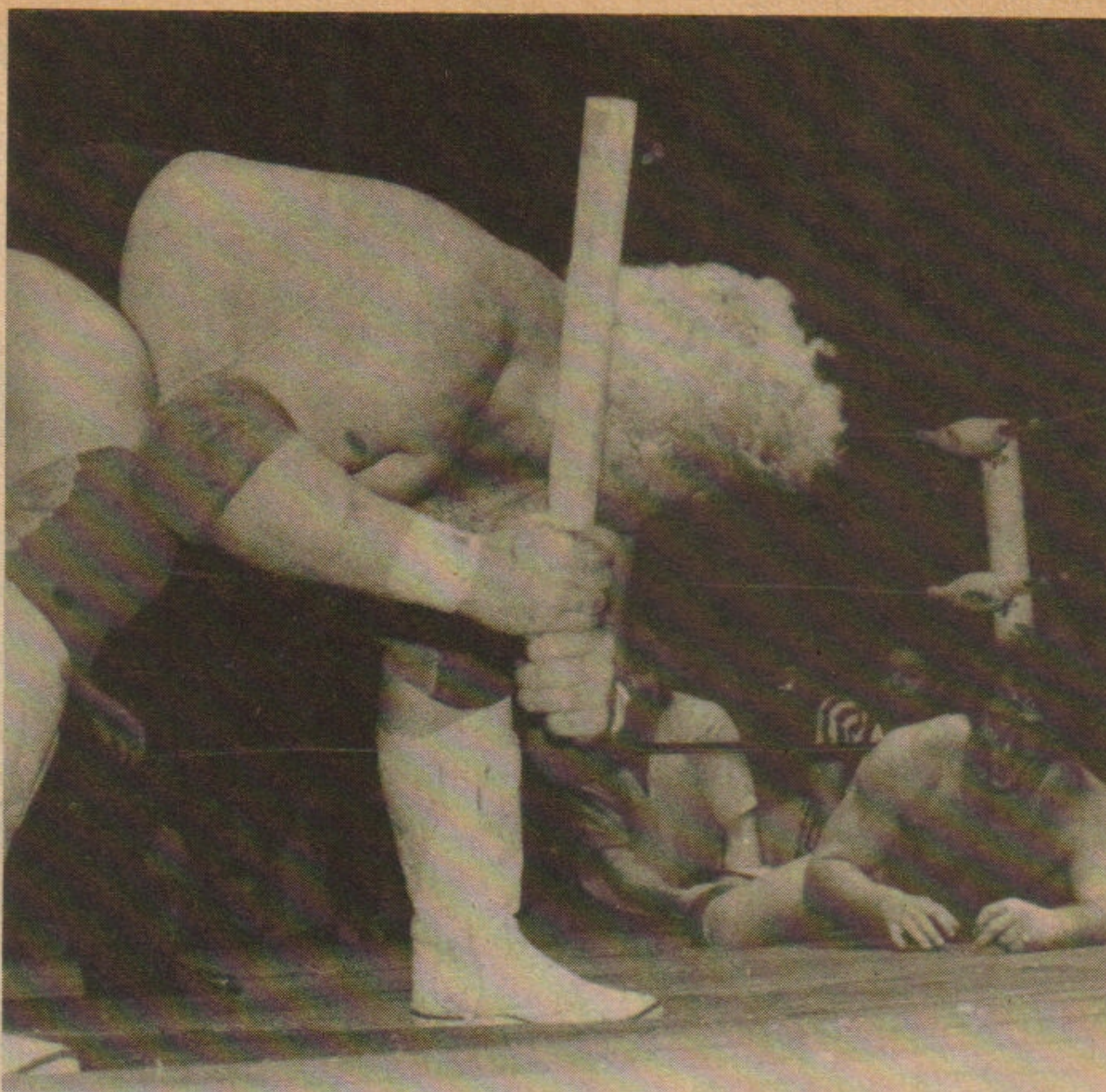
You always put down the good guys. What do you have to say about Harley Race?

When was the last time he



Harley Race is a true champion because he knows the price he has to pay to win. If it means blood, Harley is still willing to pay the price.

pinned a guy in a title match? When he lost the title to Dusty Rhodes, right before the match,



If Greg Callillouet claims Dusty Rhodes is a champion "deep down in his heart," how does he explain Blubberboy hitting a defenseless Terry Funk with a piece of hard wood? Some champion.

he paid Terry Funk to break Dusty's arm.

Or, when he was supposed to wrestle Tommy "Wildfire" Rich, he paid Austin Idol to wrestle Rich first. Rich won the TV title, but he also got put into the hospital.

When Race doesn't hire someone, he gets disqualified. I think if a champion gets disqualified, he should lose his belt.

DAMON DAVIE

Cape Girardeau, MO

Dear Mr. Davie,

What you think is not going to affect title matches one way or another. Harley Race does what he must to remain champion. In this, he is incredibly successful. I am sure that if the rules are changed, a scientific champion could lose his belt by disqualification. Harley Race would not be disqualified. It is the mark of a superb professional that he does what

he must to win. Harley Race is not looking for glory, but for success.

Dear Duncie,

I think you are really stupid. What I mean is the way you say Ric Flair is better as a rulebreaker. I disagree. I know Ric has more fans since he became a good guy. You dumb jackass. I think you are jealous of Ric Flair.

STEVE CLEVENGER

Greenback, TN

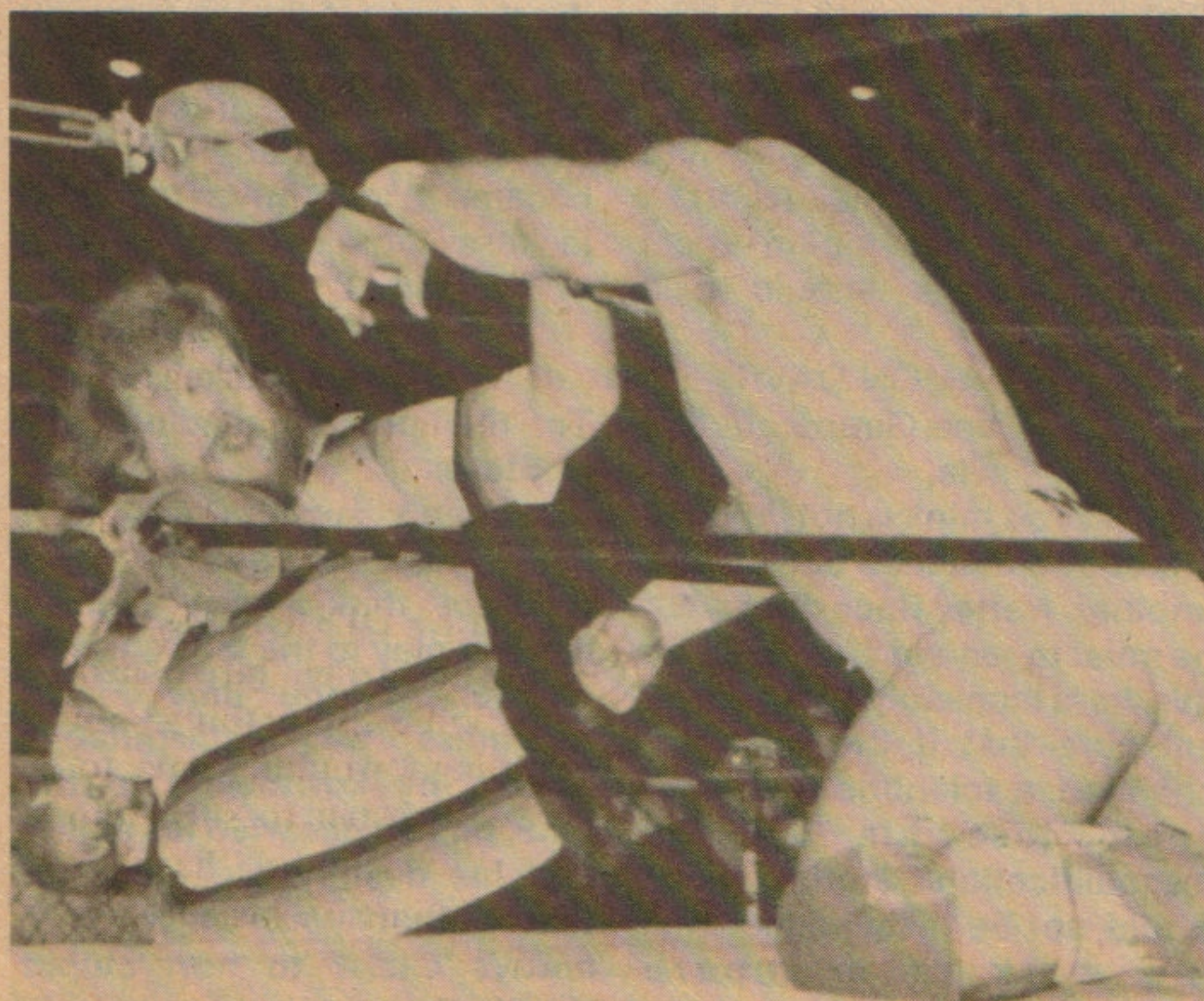
To the person reading this to Steve:

A man's success and how many fans he has are two different things. Any clumsy oaf can play to the fans and win cheers. At one time Flair's greatness was indisputable. Today, by kowtowing to the fans, he has deserted his ability and his destiny. But don't let that bother you, Steve, it is always easier to hurl stupid insults than think. □

Every month, three reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport

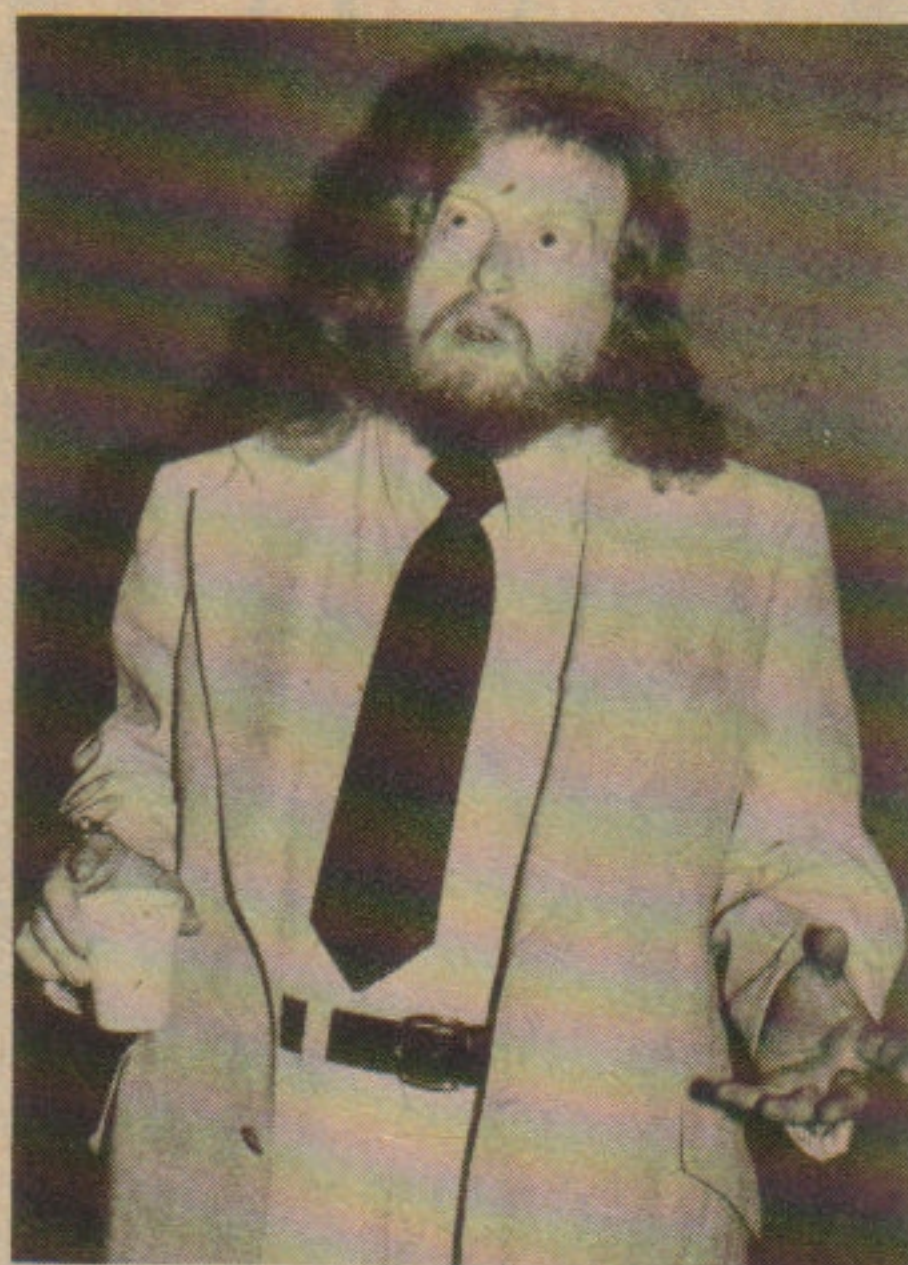
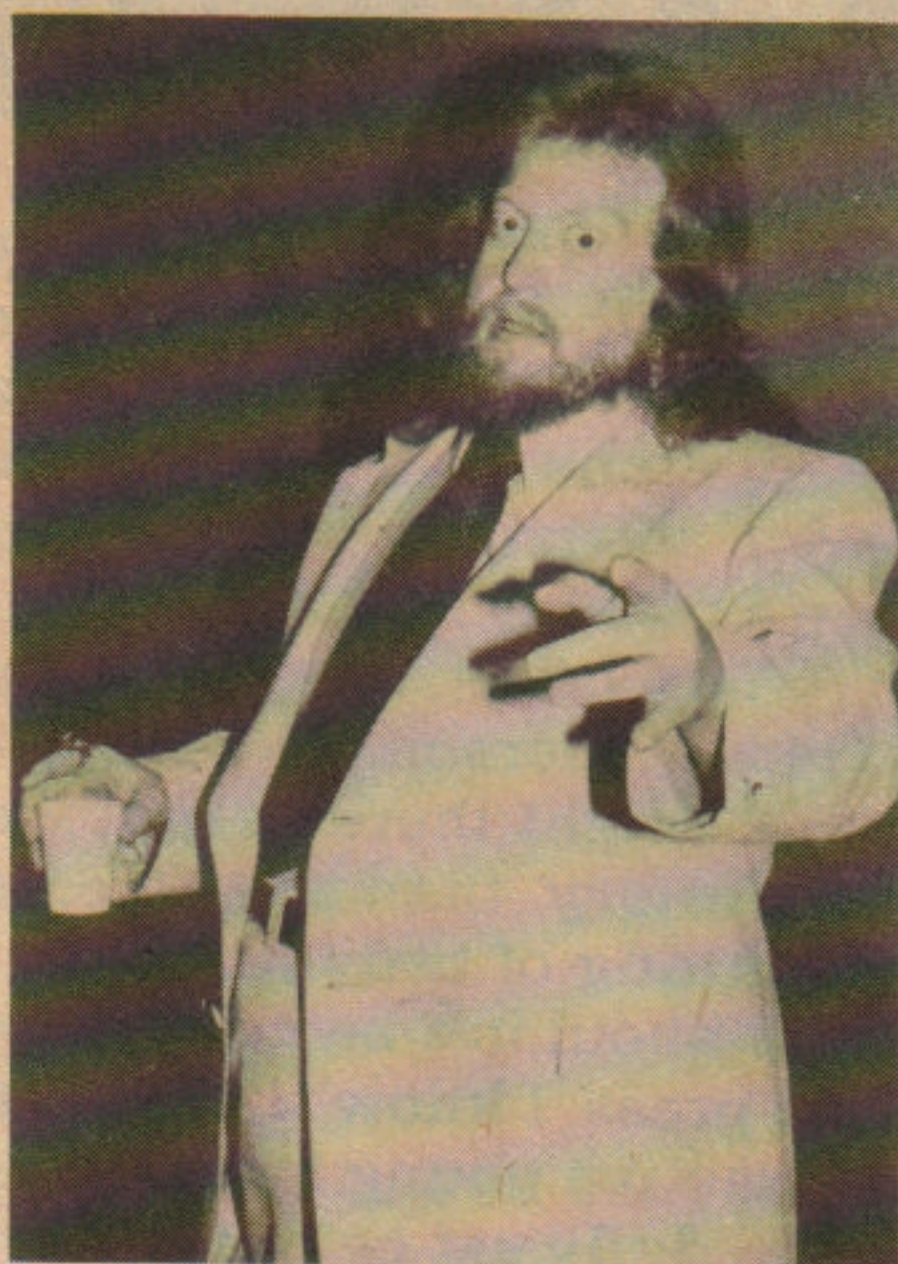
PRESS CONFERENCE

**SIR OLIVER
HUMPERDINK**



(Perhaps no other man in all of wrestling evokes the contempt that Sir Oliver Humperdink generates. And surely no man enjoys the controversy like Sir Oliver Humperdink does. Already, Humperdink has alienated every scientific wrestler in Florida with his back-stabbing tactics. And Humperdink has also rebuilt a formidable family since returning to the rule-breaking ways. Managing Editor Bill Apter, and Associate Editors Steve Farhood and Stu Saks join Humperdink in this issue's edition of "Press Conference.")

"Rhodes is very naive. He thought I wanted to be his friend. Why would I want to associate with someone like him? I can't rely on a coward to protect me."



BILL APTER: Oliver, you've...

SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK: Demonstrate proper respect, swine. You call me Sir.

APTER: Well, Sir, I thought we'd be a little less formal, so...

HUMPERDINK: So what? So you can chop me up in print and misquote me? So you can make me out to be a villain?

STEVE FARHOOD: Do you think the press is responsible for your public image, or is it your own actions?

HUMPERDINK: I did what was best for me and best for my family. You think I was gonna kow-tow to that fat slob Rhodes? He wanted to use me, to get all my brains, pick out my intelligence. I showed him. He's

just a laugh, a big fat joker who can't even find a belt big enough to close his size 54 pants.

STU SAKS: Yet you did turn on him.

HUMPERDINK: Did not, did not. That simply demonstrates your own prejudices. If anything, he turned on me. He subjected me to brutal excesses. I only protected myself. It's not my fault he's a fool.

APTER: How so?

HUMPERDINK: Rhodes is very naive. He thought I wanted to be his friend. Why would I want to associate with someone like him? I can't learn anything or gain anything. I can't rely on a coward to protect me.

FARHOOD: Now hold it, Humperdink. I don't think it's

fair to call Rhodes a coward.

HUMPERDINK: You ever watch him wrestle?

FARHOOD: On many occasions.

HUMPERDINK: Don't you see how he takes his blubber on a dead run outta the ring as soon as trouble gets going?

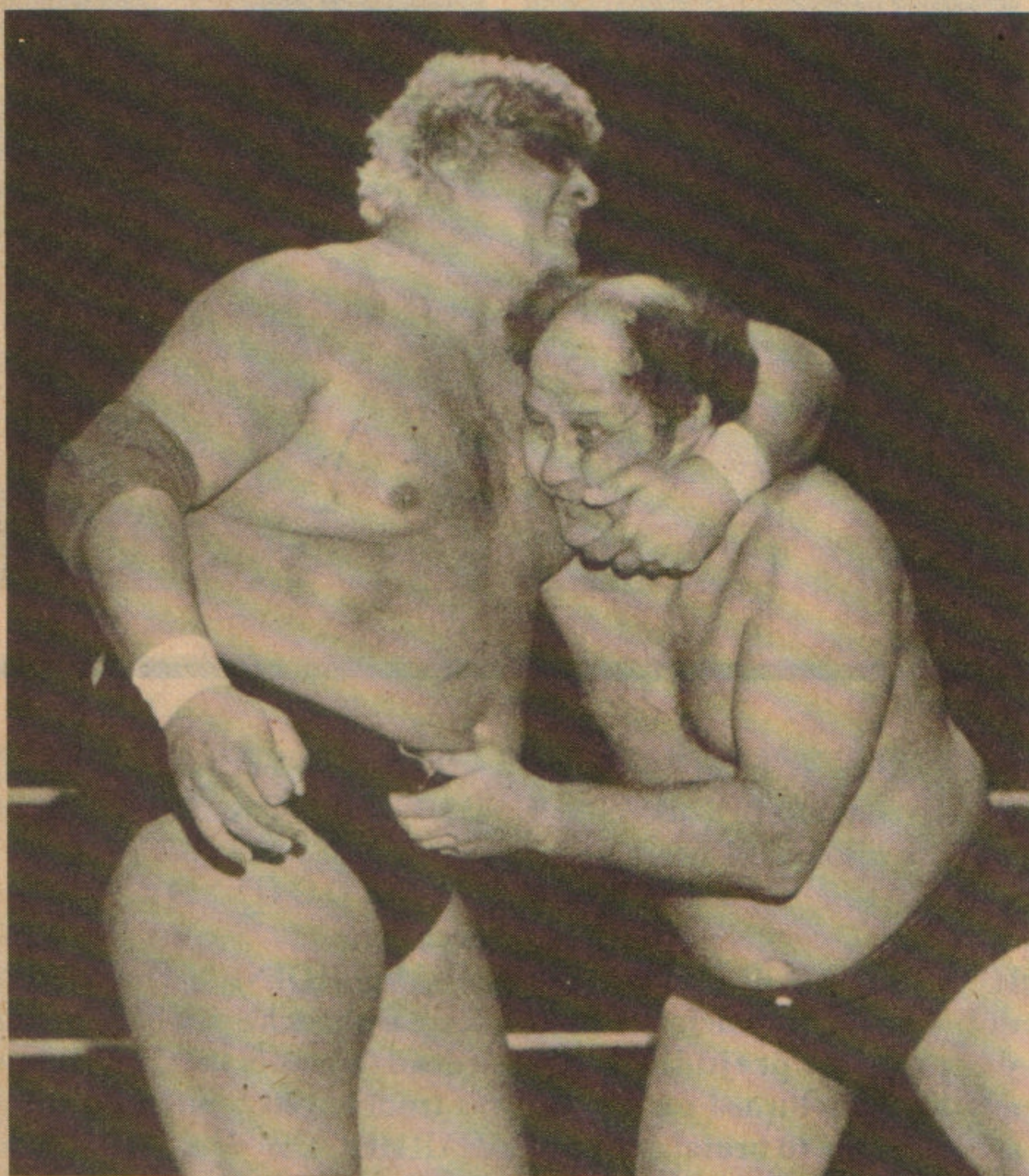
FARHOOD: No, I think Rhodes is very courageous in the ring.

HUMPERDINK: Maybe if your magazine hired people who knew something about wrestling I wouldn't have to sit here and listen to such idiotic remarks. Rhodes hasn't an ounce of guts in his 800-pound body.

SAKS: Then who do you think

(Continued on page 56)

ARE THE ANDERSON BROTHERS BEING FORCED TO REUNITE?



The Anderson Brothers wisely took on the toughest competitors in the area before challenging Paul Jones and Masked Superstar for the NWA tag team championship. And they don't come any tougher than Dusty Rhodes and Andre the Giant, as Gene Anderson is finding out.

IS IT ACCURATE to say that the reunion of Gene and Ole Anderson as a dangerous tag team force was entirely through their own making?

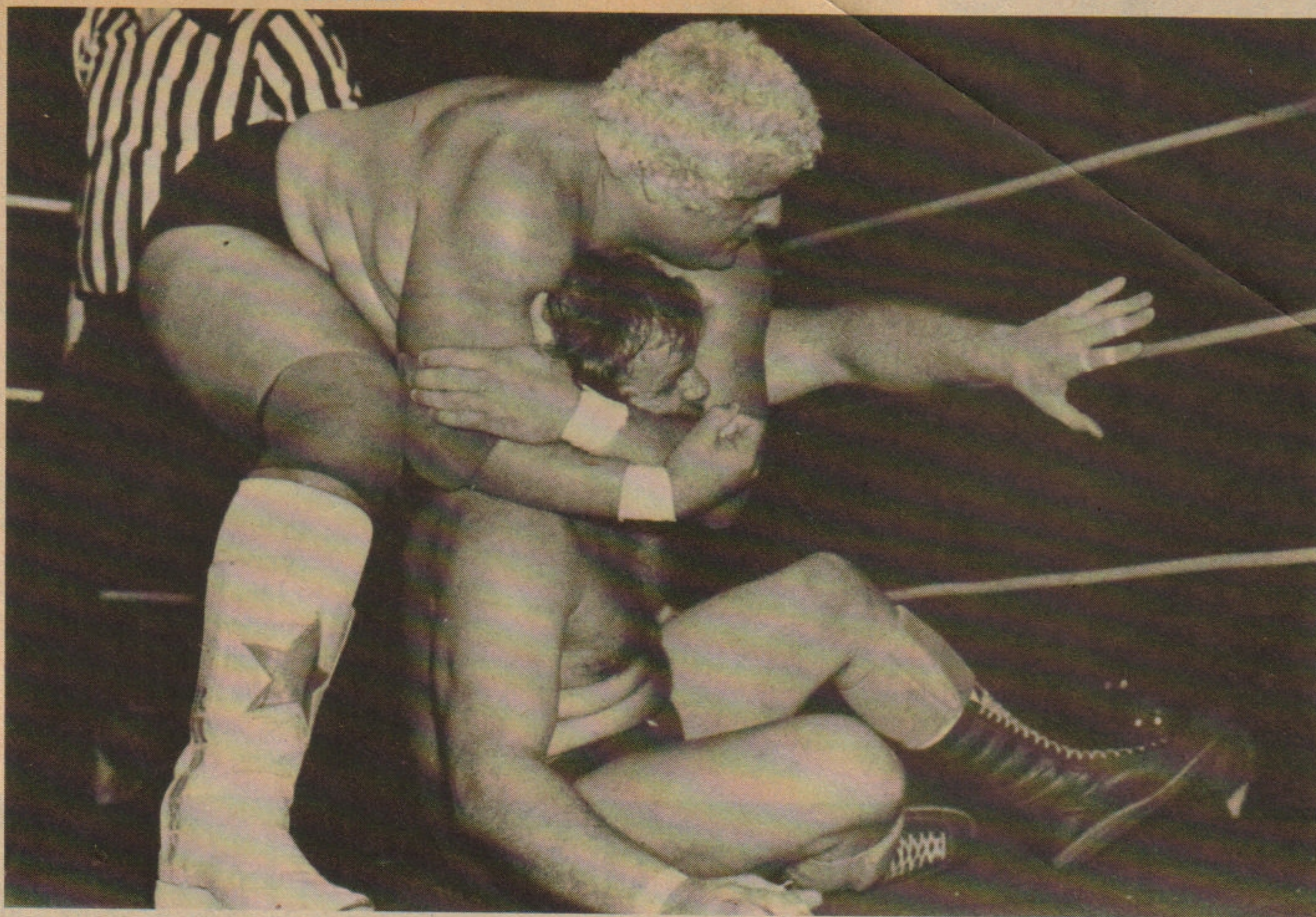
"You bet it was," snarled Gene Anderson.

Or might there be more to this story than the simple reuniting of two brothers?

"I shouldn't be coming to the press, I know it," said an attractive young brunette as she edgily sat before Editor-in-Chief Peter King's desk. She'd called earlier in the day with, what she described as "explosive news concerning the Anderson Brothers tag team." Now she sat, as she had for several hours, relating and retelling a tale so short, yet so stunning in its implications that the entire staff gathered in disbelief.

"I was sitting in a nice little restaurant in Charlotte, North Carolina," said the woman, who demanded to remain nameless. "I was down there visiting my

They are together again. Gene and Ole Anderson, a truly maniacal tag team made even more formidable by their brotherly knowledge of each other's every ring move. Yet they were not reunited merely out of sibling love. Rather, the tempting offer of a secret weapon to destroy Paul Jones and Masked Superstar drove them to revive their dastardly tag team



Rhodes keeps an eye on the ropes, making sure Ole Anderson cannot get close enough to force a break of his headlock (above). Dusty cocks his right fist as he and Gene exchange blows in mid-ring (below).

sister. Well, I've been a big wrestling fan for much of my life and when I saw Gene and Ole Anderson walk in, I nearly died from excitement.

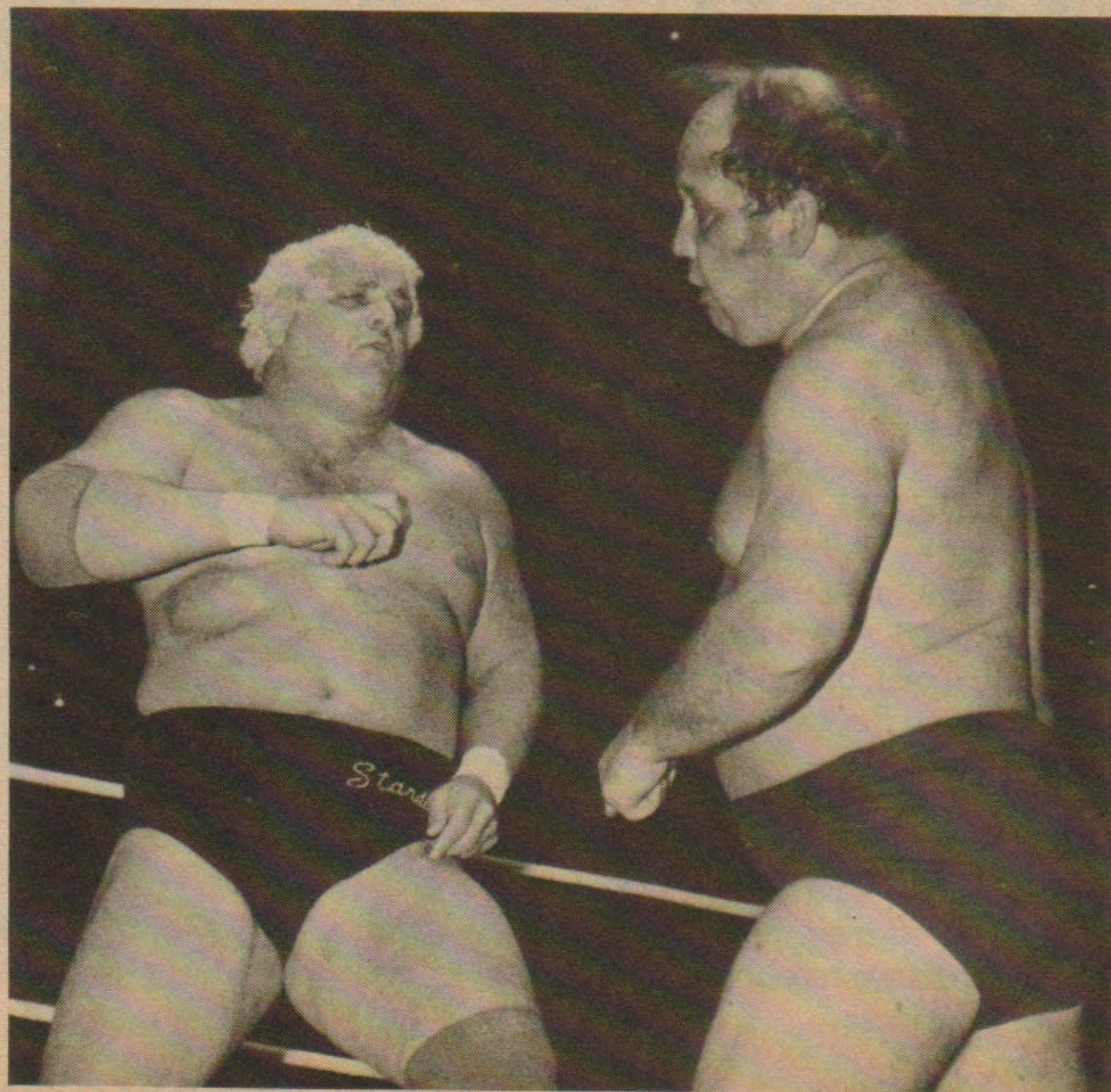
"I was going to go over and talk to them, but they seemed very absorbed, kind of distracted. Then, as I was still deliberating what to do, go over or not, this funny-looking guy walked in and sat down with them.

"It was kinda strange the way they reacted to him. Instead of warmly greeting the guy, they just nodded, grunted, and looked around nervously."

At this point, the woman grew nervous.

"I just wanted to hear what they were saying. Now I'm not the type to eavesdrop, mind you, not at all. But I did hear a bit of what they were saying," the woman paused,

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IT BEGAN WITH a phone call.

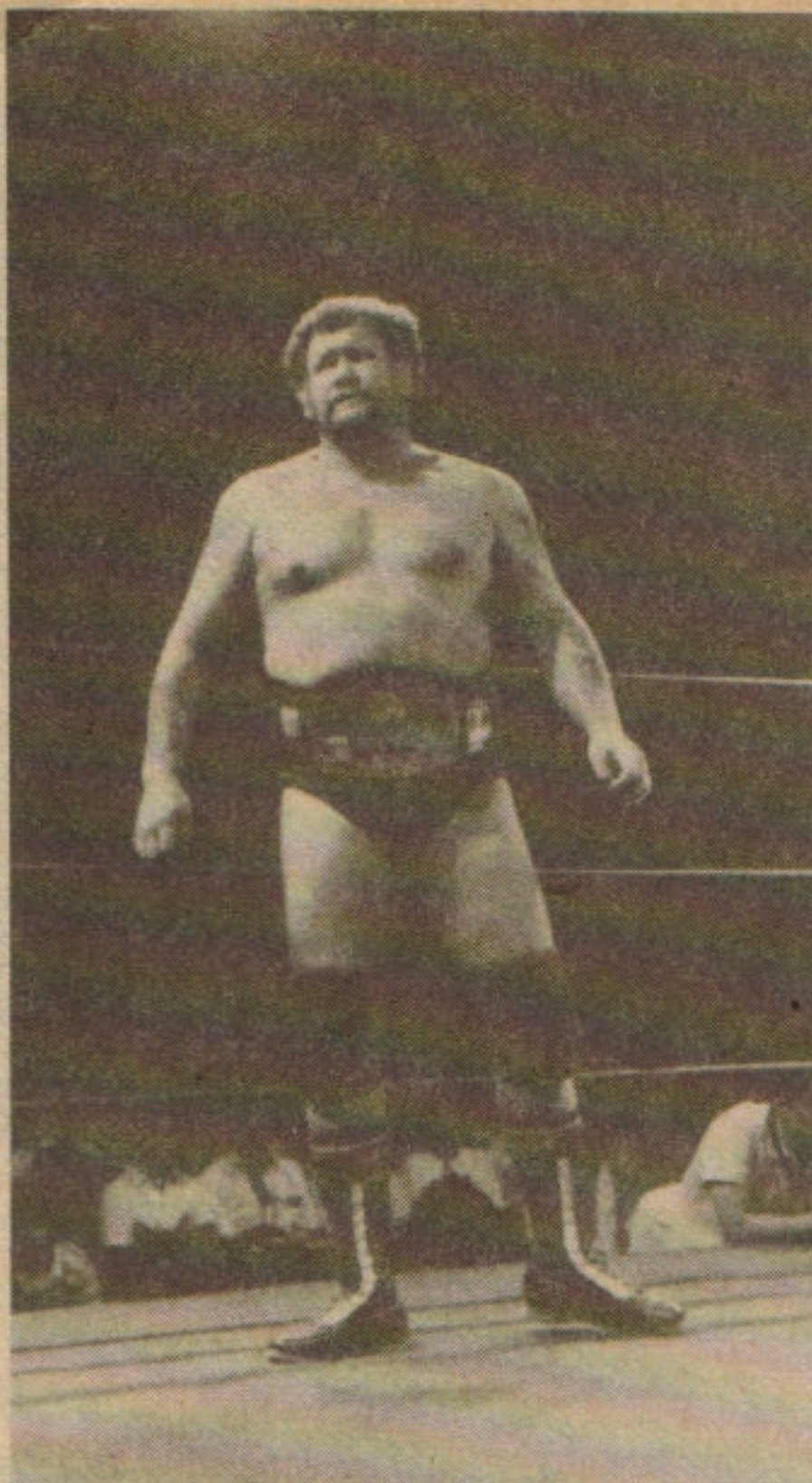
Harley Race called Captain Lou Albano the moment he came into the WWF to wrestle Bob Backlund at Madison Square Garden several months ago. For a long time, Race and Albano have respected each other, from a distance.

"I got a call from Lou. He had some advice about whippin' Howdy Doody. We had a real fine talk, mentionin' a lot of things and some clues on how to demolish Backlund," recalled Race.

Albano is not one to freely dispense advice. There was a price attached to the advice given Race. A price the NWA champion willingly accepted.

And now the payoff.

"I don't know what you're talkin' about," said Race.



ranging discussion with Mr. Harley Race," said Wizard. "We touched upon many matters, Mr. Robert Backlund and his illegal possession of the WWF title being one of those matters. As for this ridiculous idea you are trying to advance, an idea I personally consider libelous, I will not consider any further discussions on the subject."

Then how can we be so sure that Race is the hitman for the WWF rulebreaker managers? Easily. Race finally admitted it.

"I never hung up on you, we were disconnected," said Race. "Yeah, so I met with those guys. They're wonderful people, totally dedicated and committed to preserving the integrity of the game. They are determined to make wrestling clean again, freed

HITMAN HARLEY RACE—MISSION: GET MASCARAS OUT OF THE WWF!

But the payoff took place a long way from New York. Or Florida. Or even America.

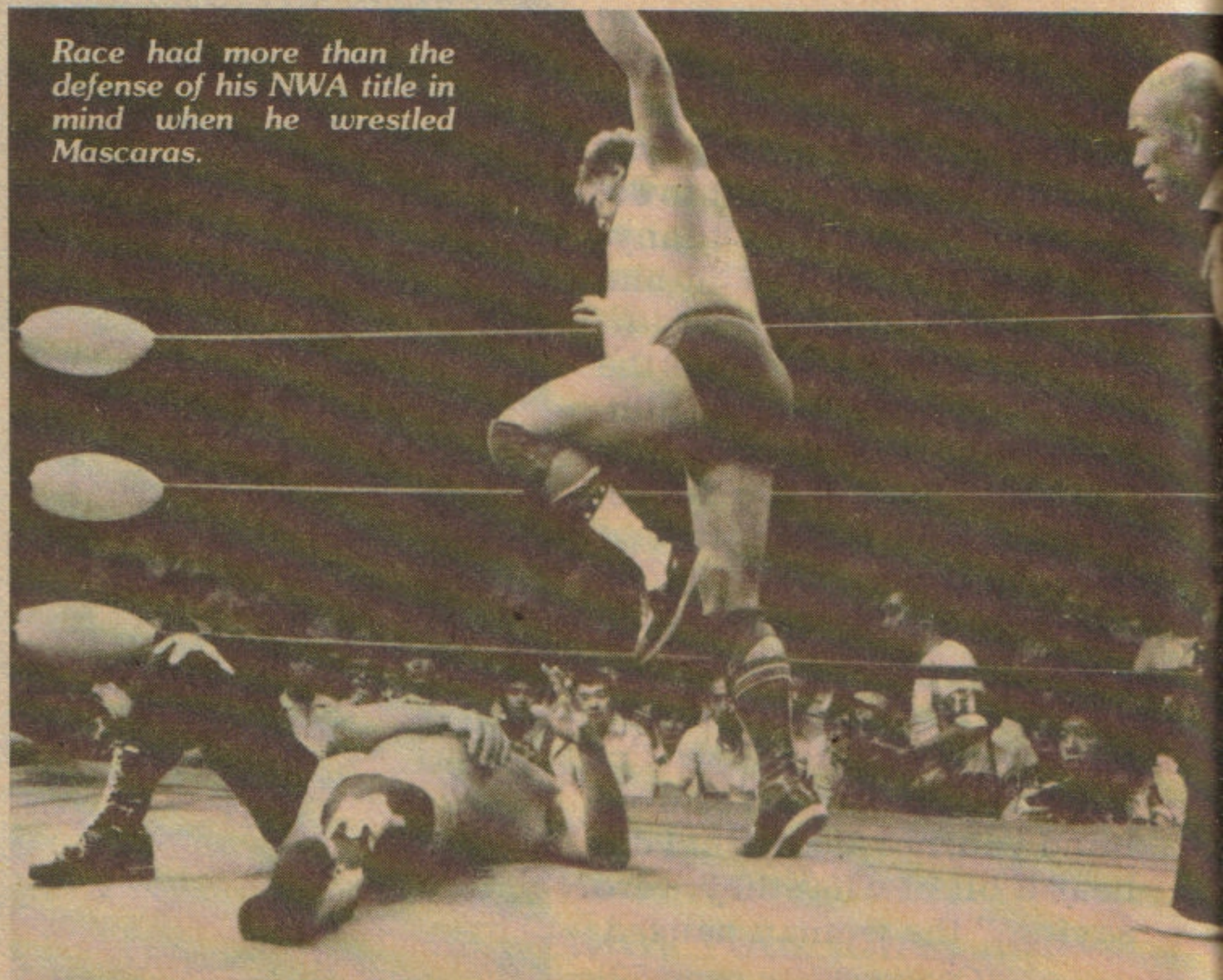
Harley Race's mission was quite simple. He had to destroy Mil Mascaras before the great masked man could make it to the WWF.

Obviously, Race vehemently denied the charges. So did Albano. But what makes this conspiracy even more frightening is the involvement of Grand Wizard and Fred Blassie. Again, they denied any actual plot, but both did admit meeting with Race when he was in New York.

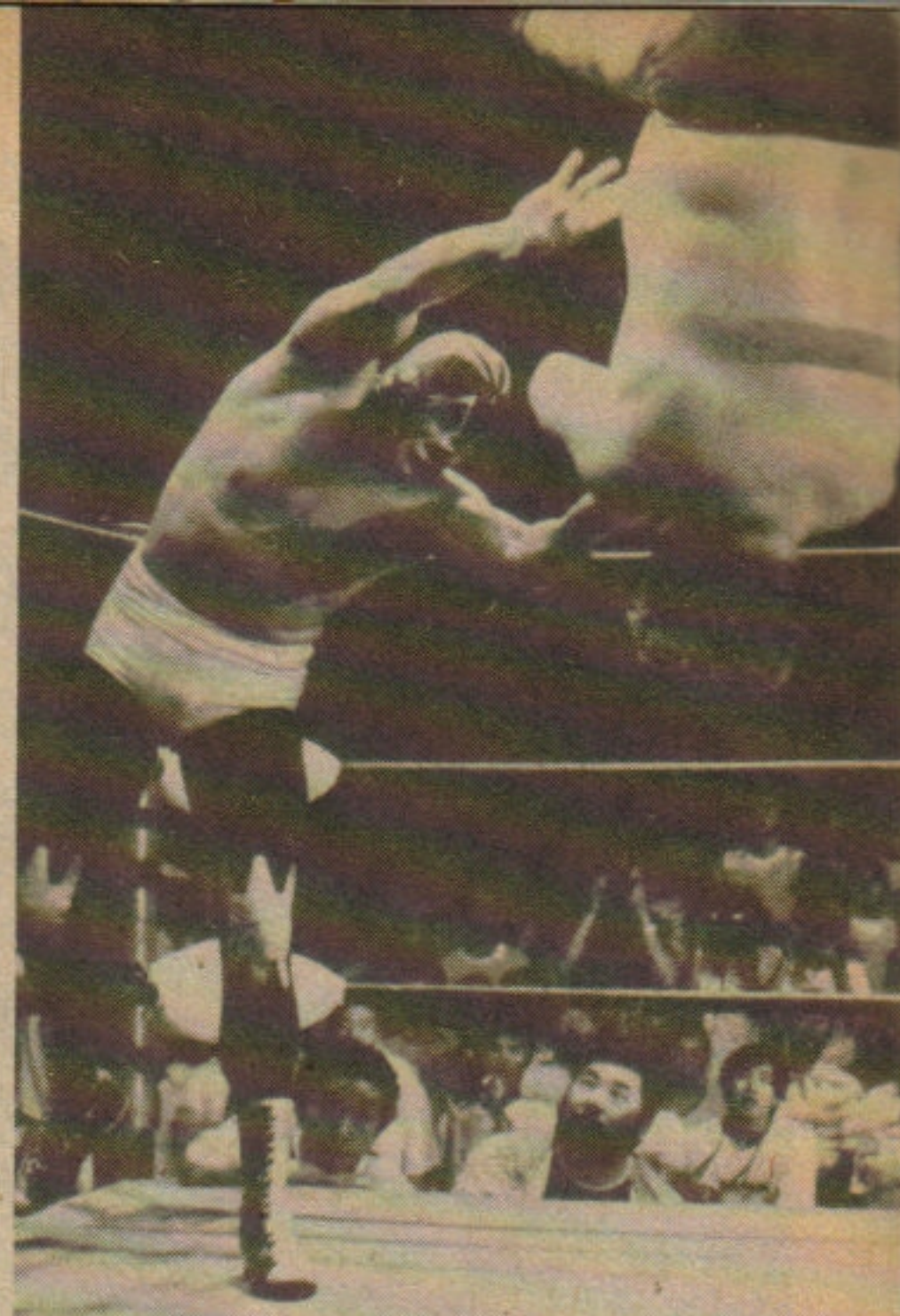
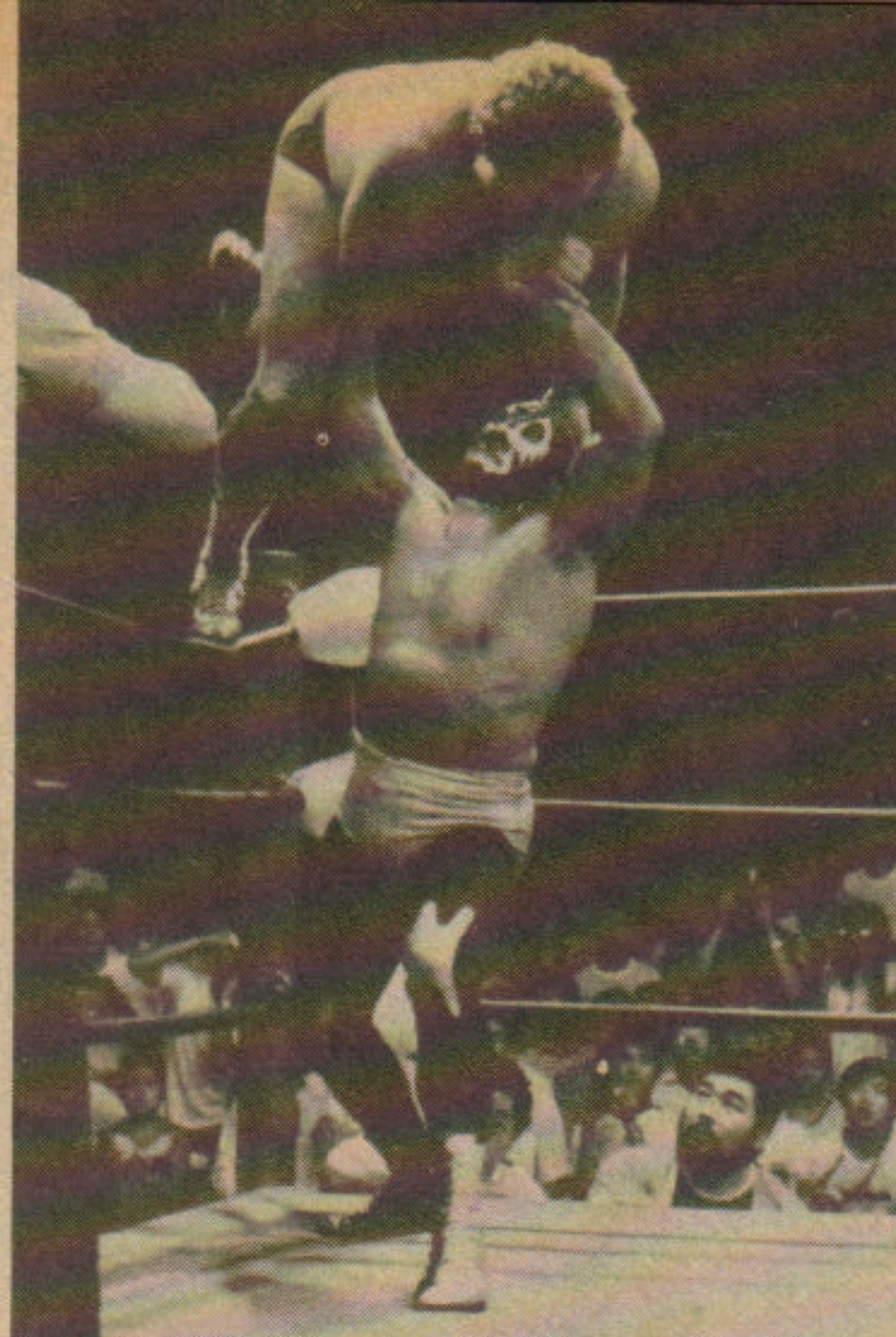
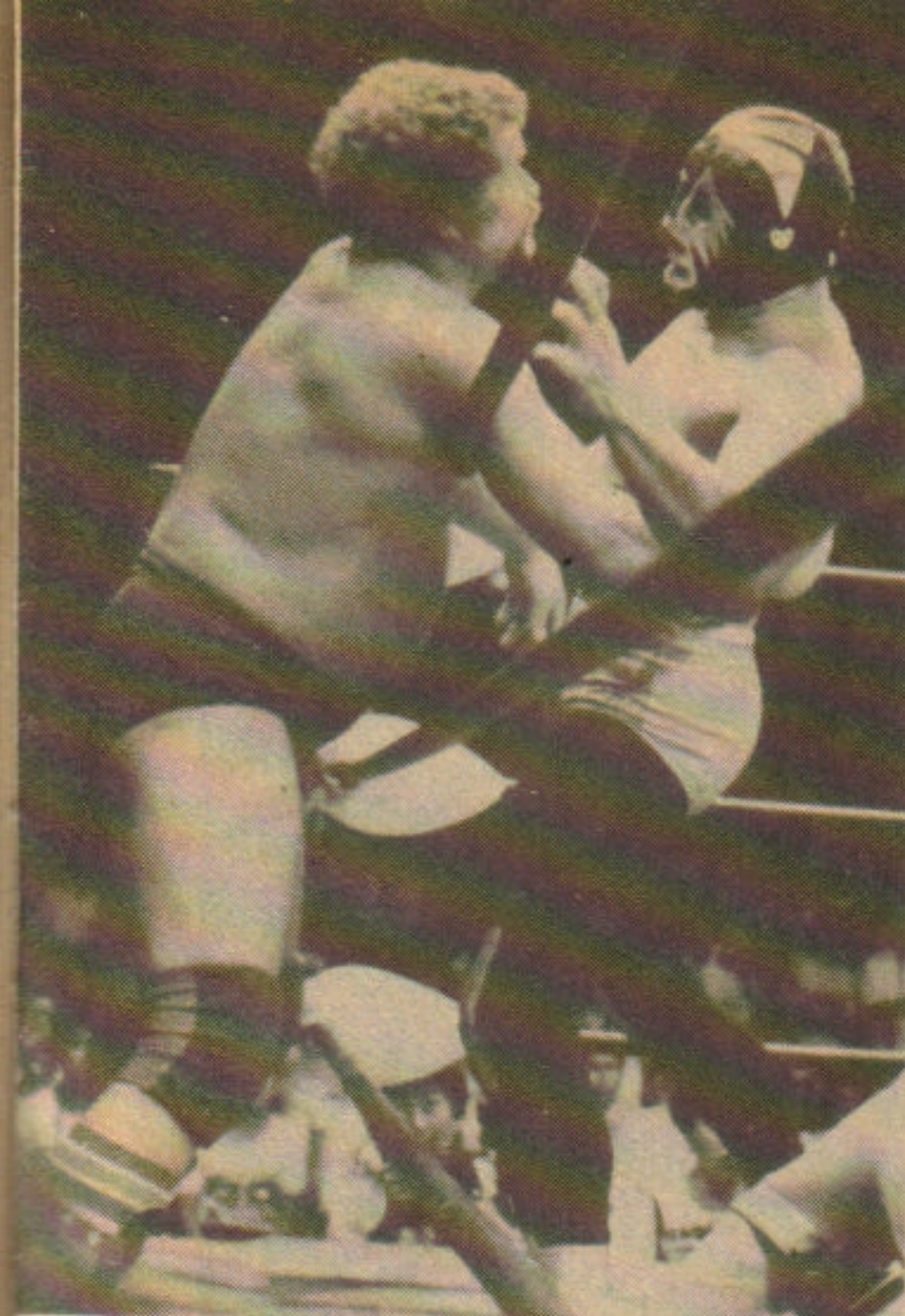
"Sure, I met Harley, he's a great man, a great champion, a fine human being," said Blassie. "It was a privilege to meet and talk with him. What'd we talk about? None of your business."

"Lou, Fred, and I had a wide-

Race had more than the defense of his NWA title in mind when he wrestled Mascaras.

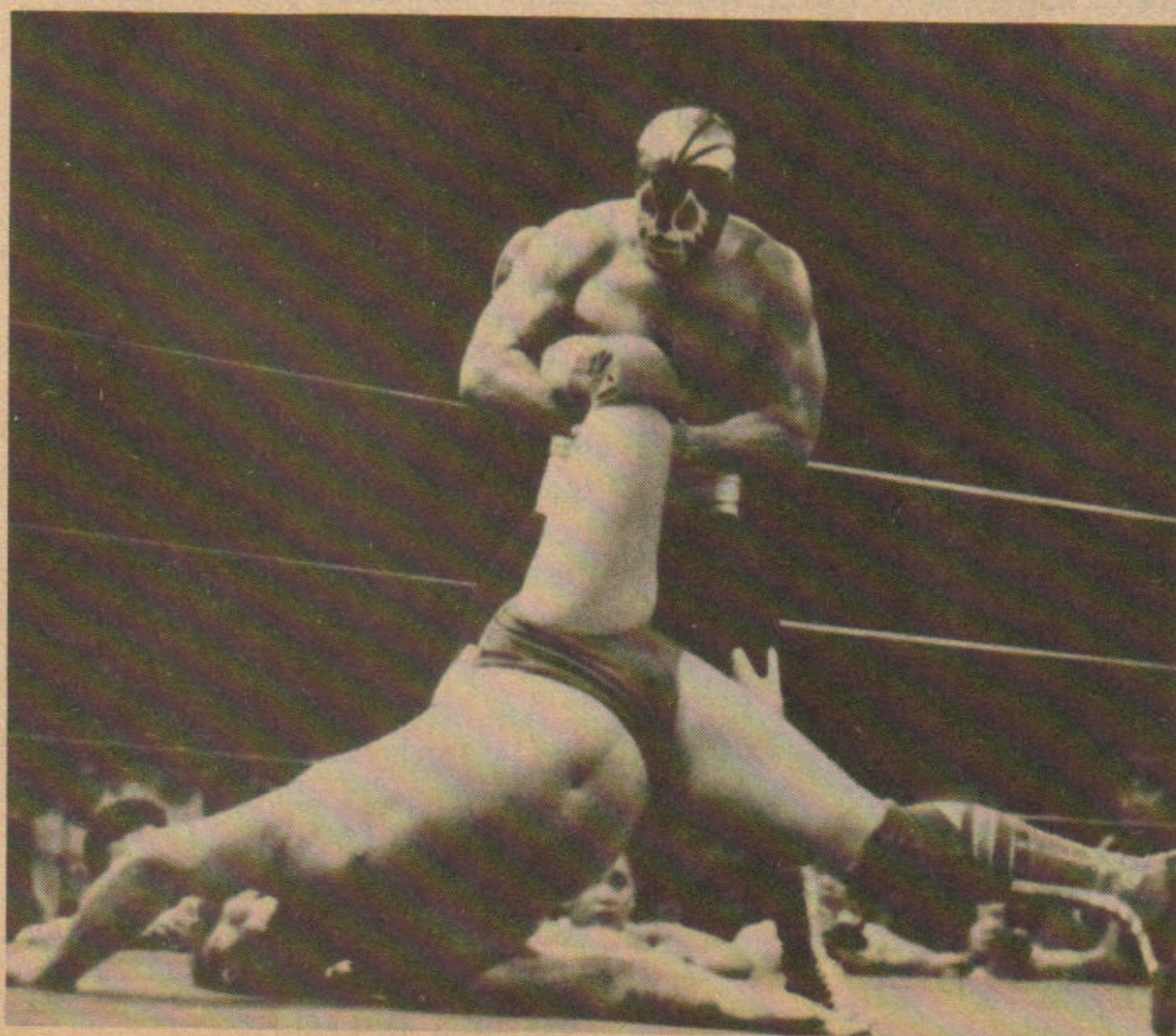


PHOTOS BY KOICHI YOSHIZAWA



At one point in the match, it looked as if Race was in a position to do Mascaras great harm. With the referee down, Race and Mascaras exchange punches (above left). Race seemingly got the best of Mascaras as the masked man slumped to the canvas. Mil, however, was playing possum. As Race climbs the turnbuckles, Mascaras gets to his feet, grabs Race (above center), and throws him to the mat (above right).

Once again, the diabolical managerial fiends of the WWF—Lou Albano, Grand Wizard, and Fred Blassie—have their warty hands in yet another sinister conspiracy. This time, they hired NWA champion Harley Race as their hitman. The target? Mil Mascaras



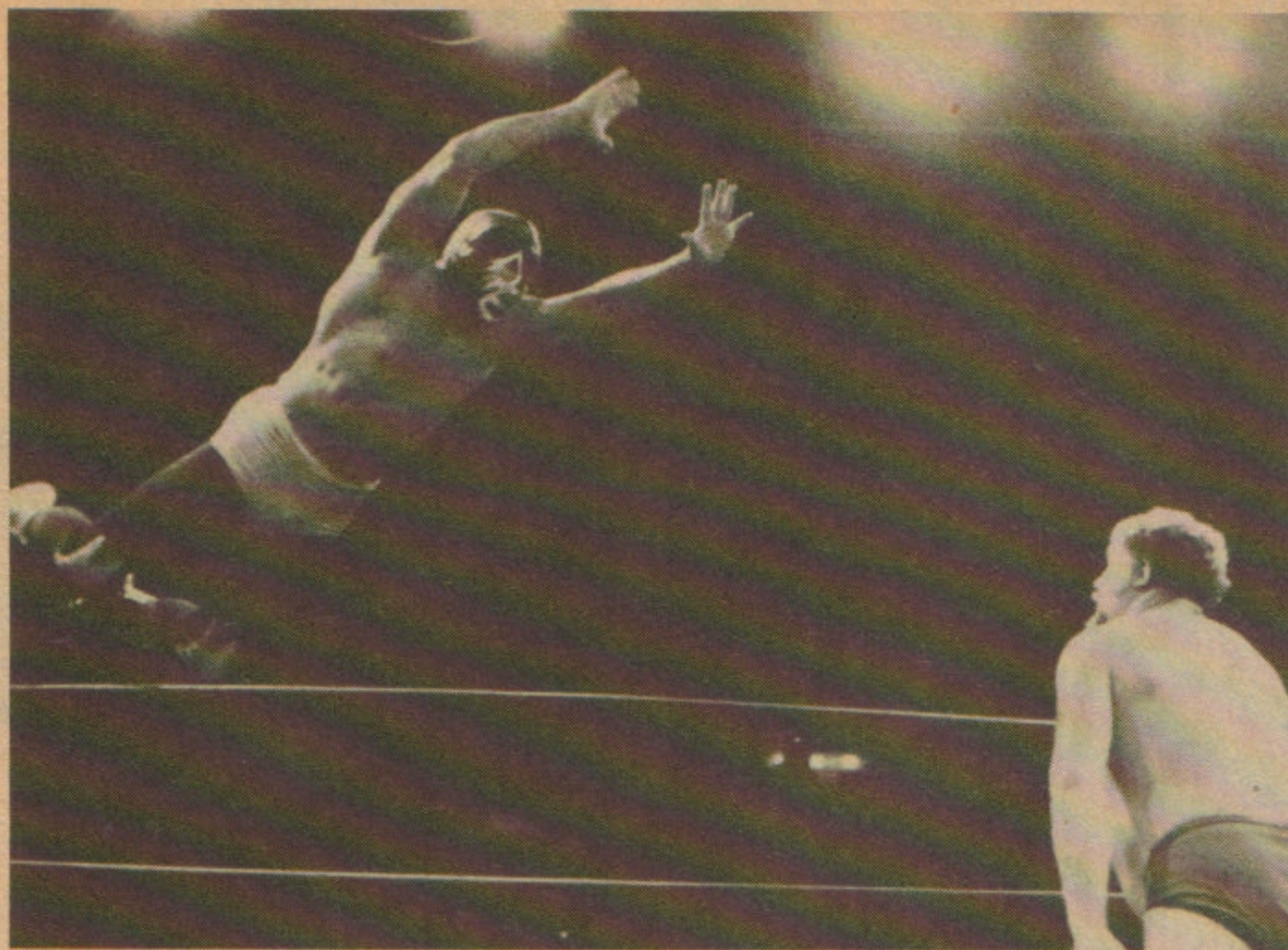
Not only did Mascaras repel Race's disgraceful mission, but he almost captured his NWA title at the same time. The champion just manages to grab the ropes before Mil can complete his Boston crab.

of the lice and vermin that infect the sport at this time.

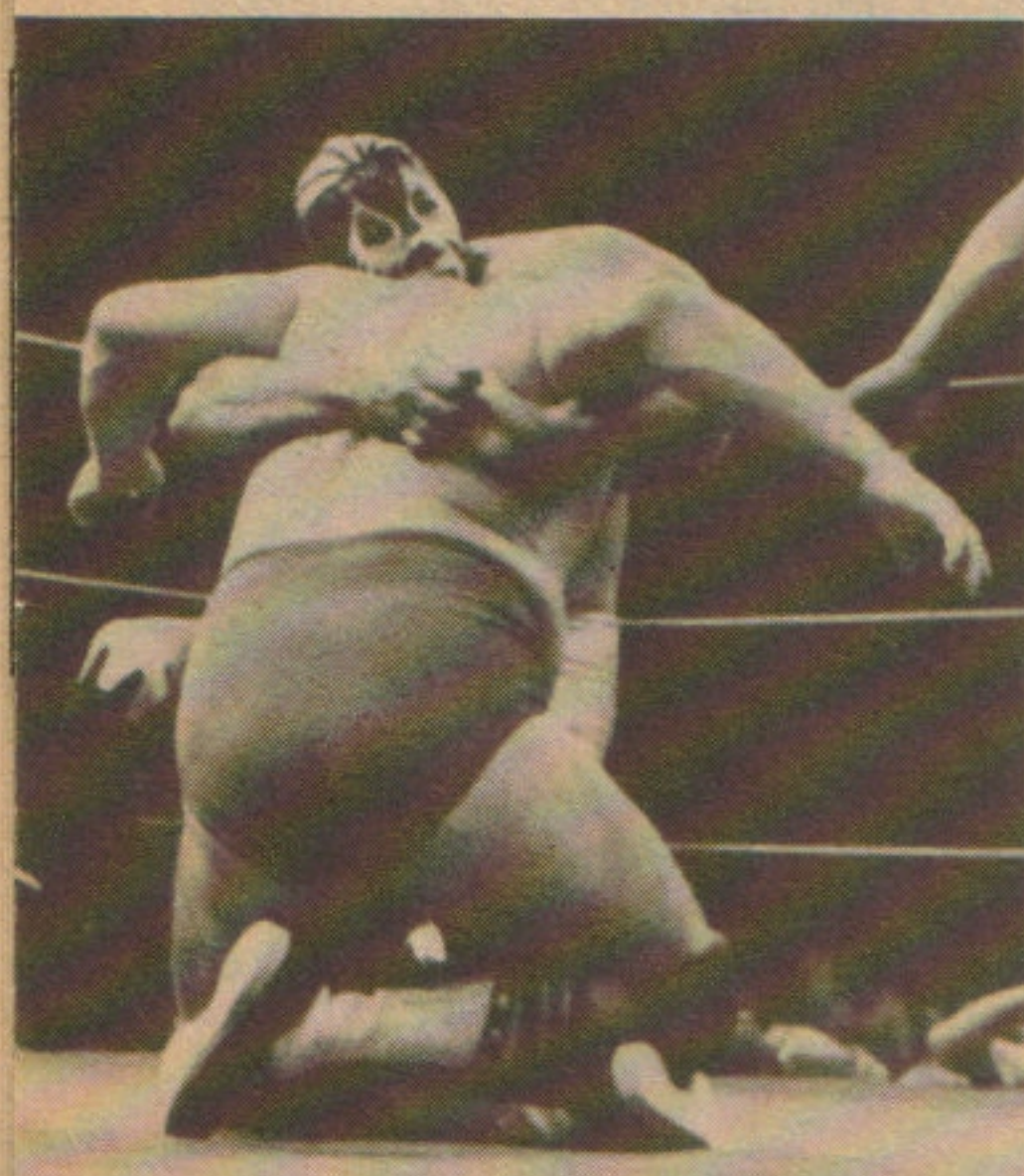
"No, I don't care, I'll discuss the subject, think I have anything to worry about? Yeah, just listen closely, okay, I don't want to be misquoted.

"Albano and Wiz and Fred discussed getting rid of the one man we consider responsible for all the troubles in wrestling today. He is a lunatic, an evil man who hides behind a mask. His name is Mil Mascaras." Race chuckled fiendishly.

"All four of us agreed that the WWF is in trouble enough with



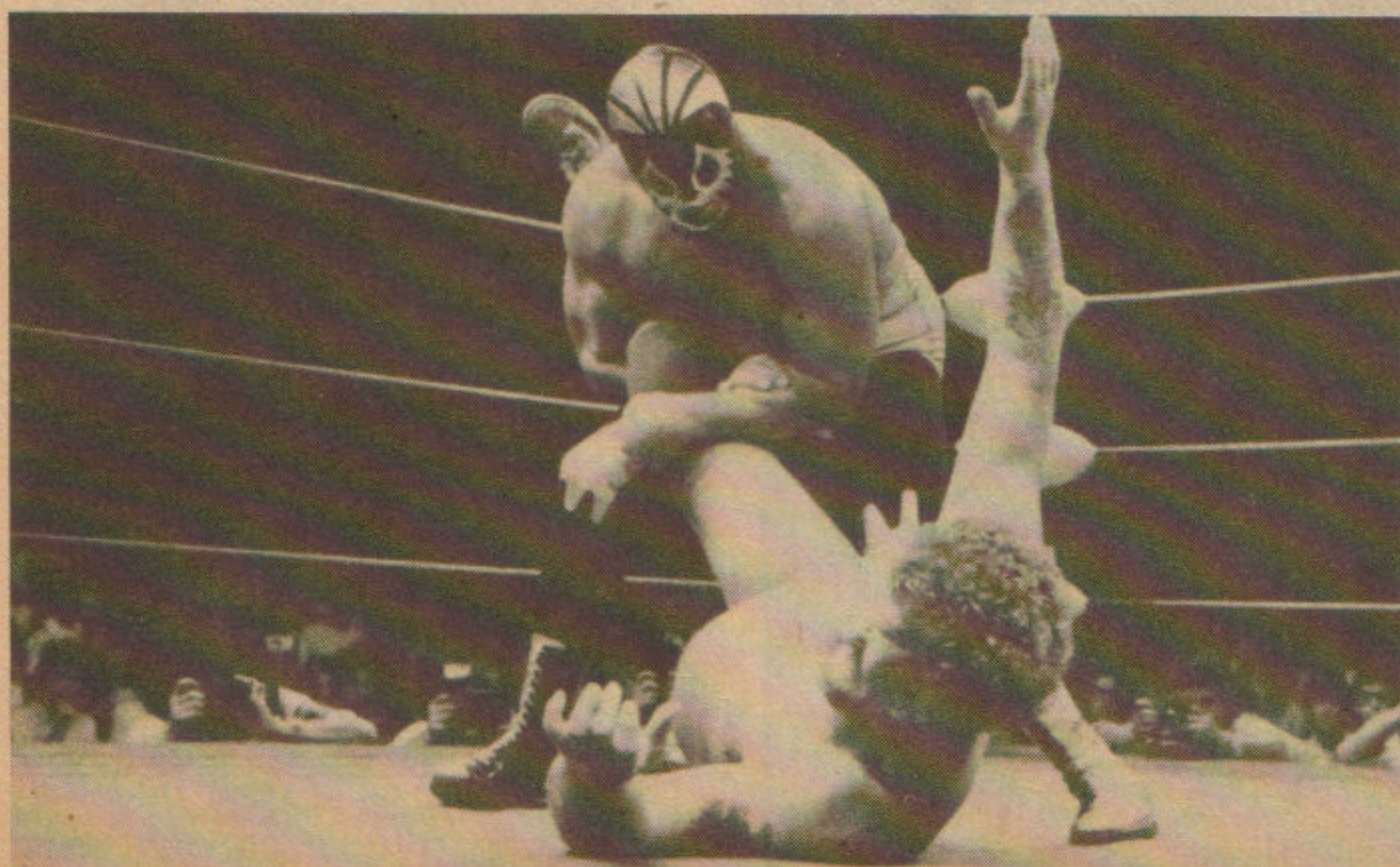
Mascaras' leap from the top turnbuckle comes up just short as Race cleverly moves a step back (above). Race suplexes Mascaras outside the ring (right). Luckily for Mil, there is padding on the floor.



crumbs like Backlund and Morales and Patterson and Sammartino lowering the quality of wrestling. The last thing any of us wanted to see was Mascaras going in there with his feeble, pathetic maneuvers and embarrassing all the hard-working wrestlers who take their sport seriously.

"So we reached a deal. They gave us some inside info on Howdy

Mascaras was not about to let Race interfere with his plans to wrestle in the WWF. Mil pressures Race's neck muscles (left) and goes to work on Harley's left leg (below).



Doody Backlund and I agreed to destroy Mascaras before he ever got to the WWF. Simple, isn't it?" Race asked.

Mascaras learned about this intrigue just minutes before the match against Race in Japan. He took it fairly calmly, though anger did seethe beneath the mask.

"I am not afraid," he said. "I almost feel sorry for men like that who must send others to do their dirty work. I have never been afraid of Race or anyone before. I will destroy Race and then those WWF managers had better watch out, because I'm after them next," said Mascaras.

Mascaras could not control his anger for long. Midway through the match, he flung Race over the top rope and implemented a flying bodypress on Race in the audience. For that, Mascaras was disqualified. Still, he was pleased afterwards.

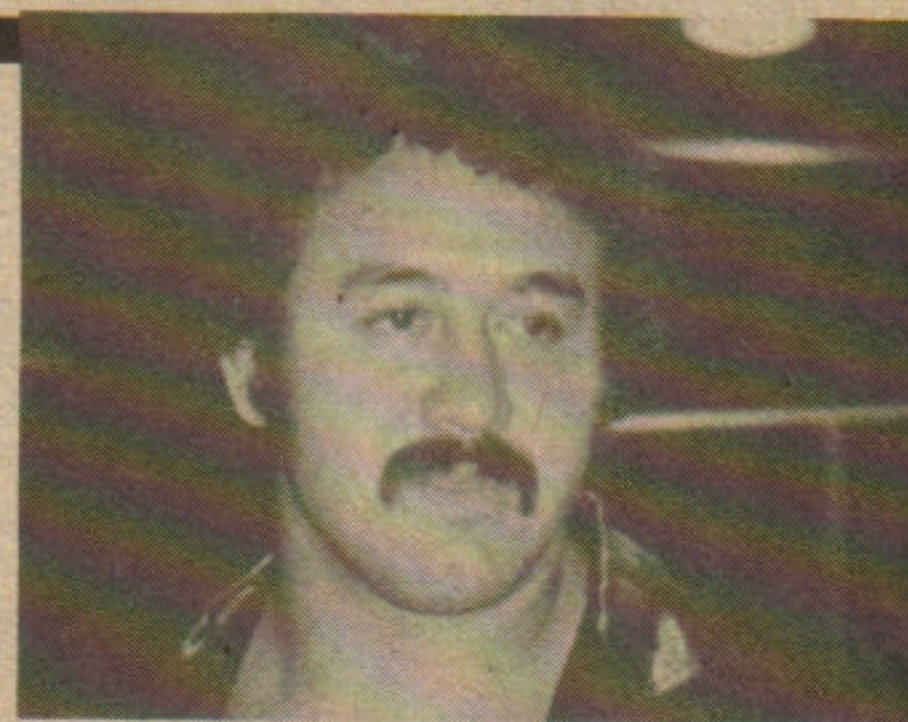
"Let the Blassies and Albanos and Wizards of the world beware," he warned. "Nothing nor anyone can stop Mil Mascaras. I hope, for their sake, they clear out of the WWF when I get there. If not, they will suffer the bloody fate of Mil Mascaras' vengeance." □

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Every month, our reporters will compile wrestlers' most revealing quotes. Often catching the grapplers with their guards down, our reporters will work endlessly in obtaining interesting quotes on a variety of subjects

MANNY FERNANDEZ

"I think I showed the whole world my true colors and what Dick Slater is all about. I proved my courage. I showed that I can take it. I am a real wrestler, unlike Slater. He's a coward and he can't take any punishment. I hope all of Florida realizes that."



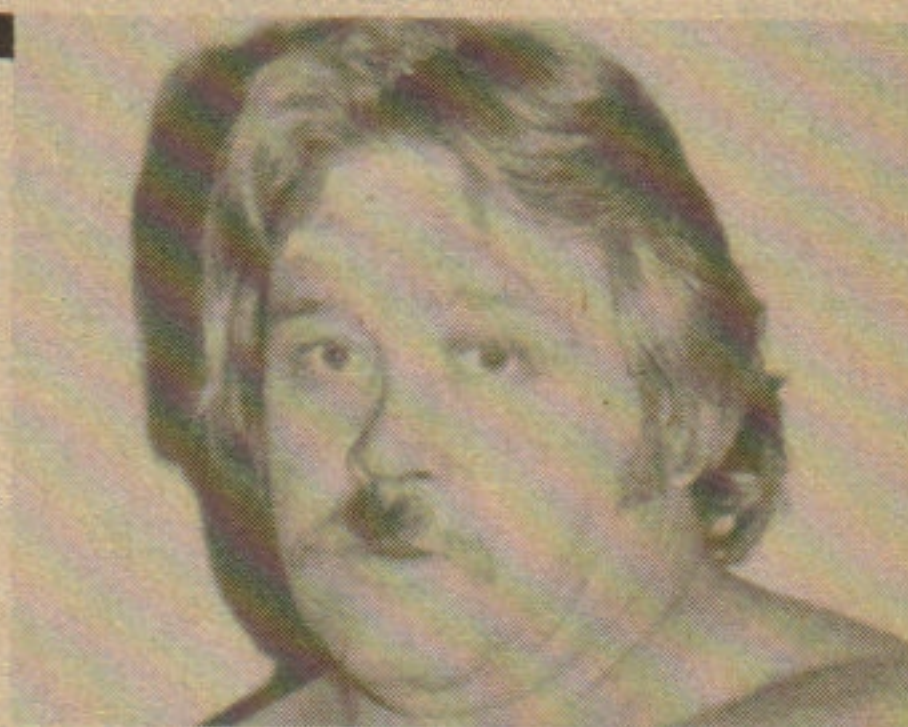
LOU ALBANO

"Who's better than the Captain? No one's better than Captain Lou Albano. I've accomplished everything I ever wanted to do in professional wrestling but I can't tell my secret plans, they're too much, they'll blow people away, they won't know how to take them, only wait, just wait and see, I'll do it and the whole planet will shake at my feet."



RAY STEVENS

"It's good to be champion again, good to see Superstar and Jones, bums who don't belong in the same ring with me and Ivan, get their butts kicked around. I don't know why anyone's surprised. It was only a freak they won it the first time. But I'll help 'em get work elsewhere so I don't have to smash their carcasses again."



MICHAEL HAYES

"Oooh, that Ted DiBiase gets so angry with me. Why, Teddy boy, why do you get oh-so-angry? Is it because you know you can't wrestle? Is it 'cause you know I'm better-lookin' than you? Maybe you should get plastic surgery, Teddy-boy."

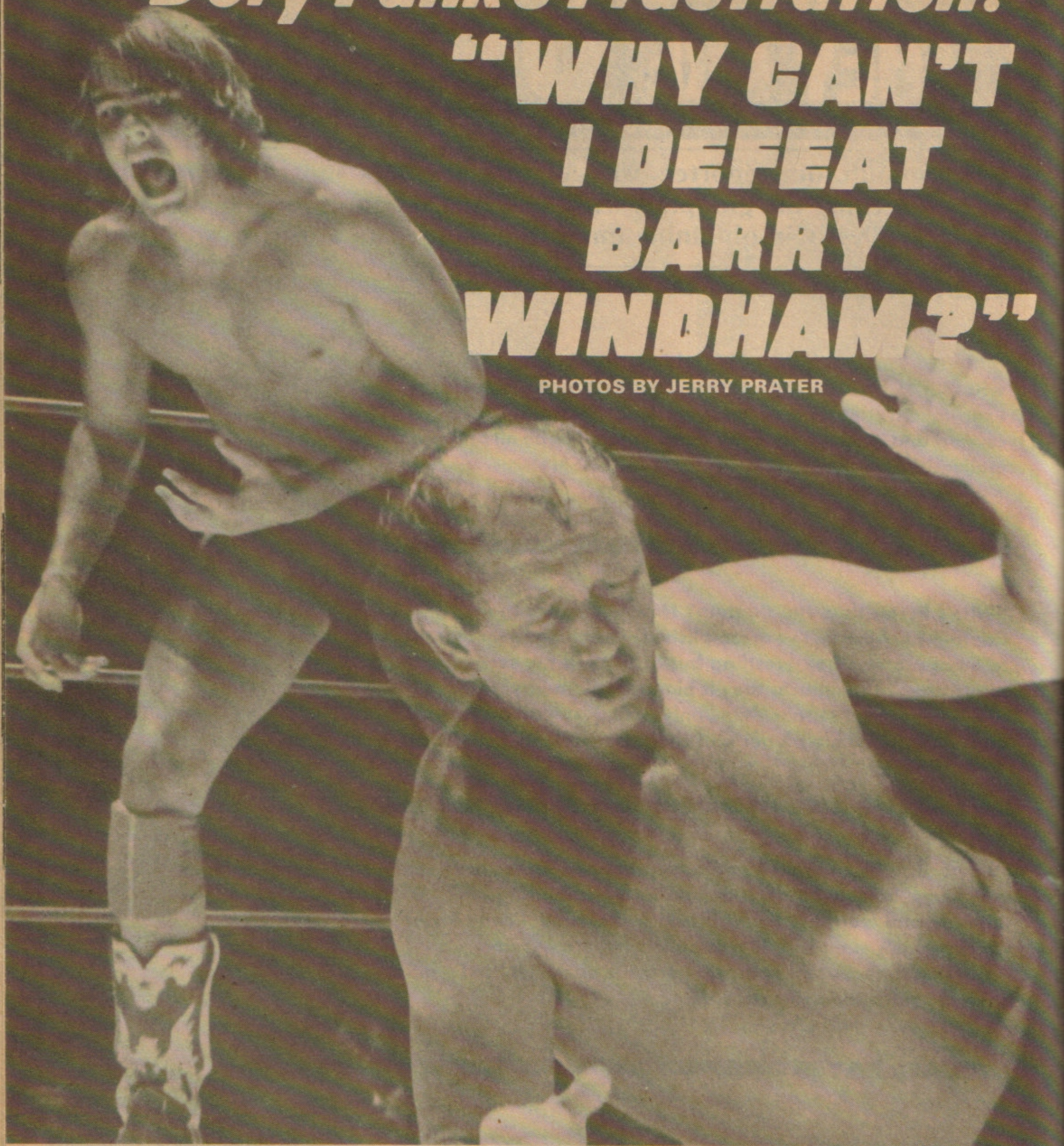


(Continued on page 49)

Dory Funk's Frustration:

**"WHY CAN'T
I DEFEAT
BARRY
WINDHAM?"**

PHOTOS BY JERRY PRATER



What bizarre psychological problem grips Dory Funk Jr.? Since losing his Florida heavyweight title to young Barry Windham, Funk has been unable to rid himself of nightmares. Not only during sleep is Funk tormented. For reasons he cannot explain, Funk is unable to defeat Windham

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Shortly before we went to press, Barry Windham was stripped of his Florida heavyweight championship when injuries sustained in an automobile accident prevented him from defending his belt. The championship was awarded to the man Windham was scheduled to make his next title defense against—Dory Funk Jr. See "Dressing Room Confidential" on page 10.)

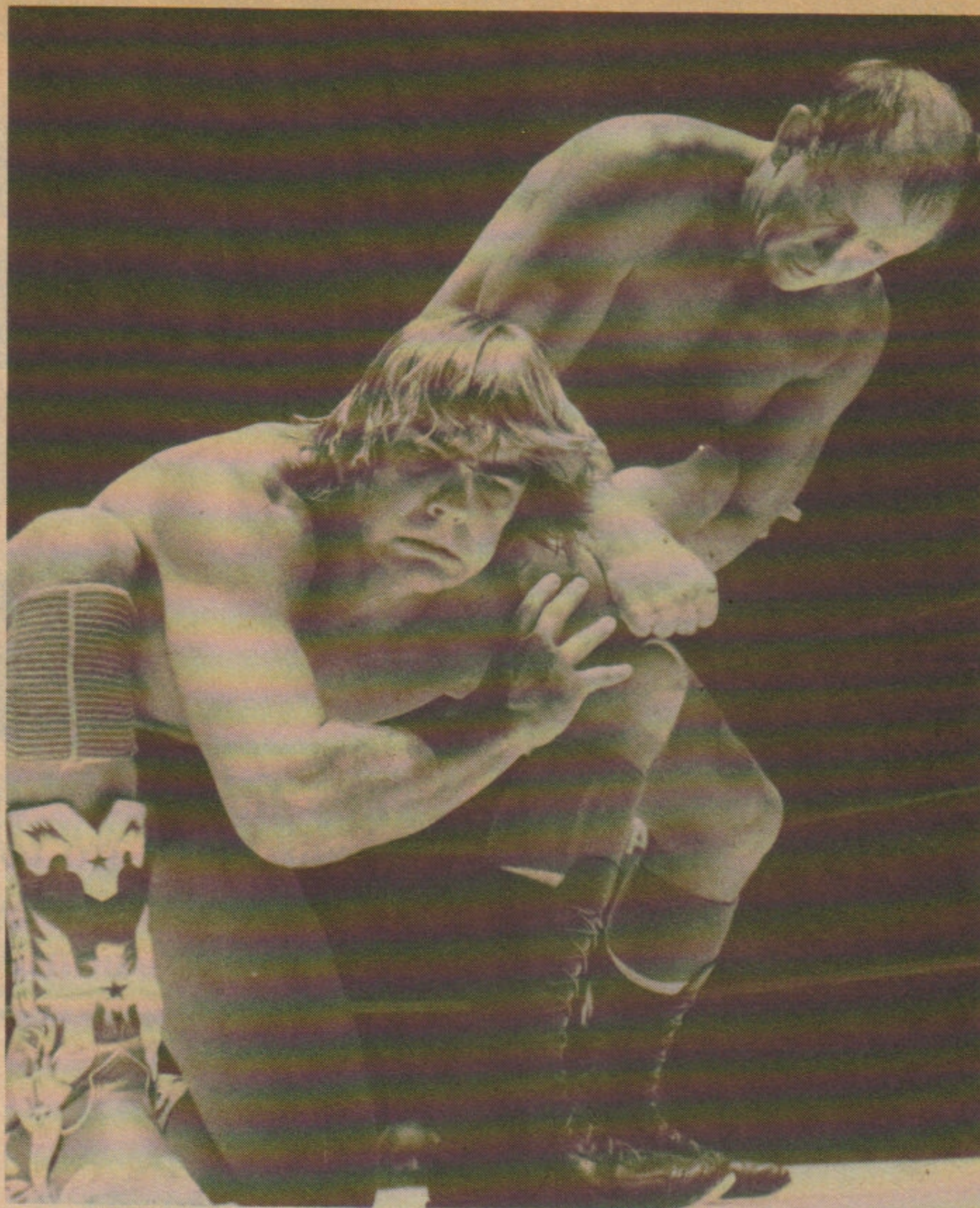
THE DREAM REMAINS the same for Dory Funk Jr.

"I kinda start dozin', know what I mean, just lyin' there driftin' into sleep," recalls Funk. "At first, I'm gettin' nice dreams, real pleasant stuff. Maybe I'm whippin' some slothful creature like Dusty Rhodes. Yeah, this is one dream. I'm whippin' that slob Rhodes, pullin' all his fat outta his fat body. All of a sudden his face kinda dims and dissolves so's he doesn't have a face at all.

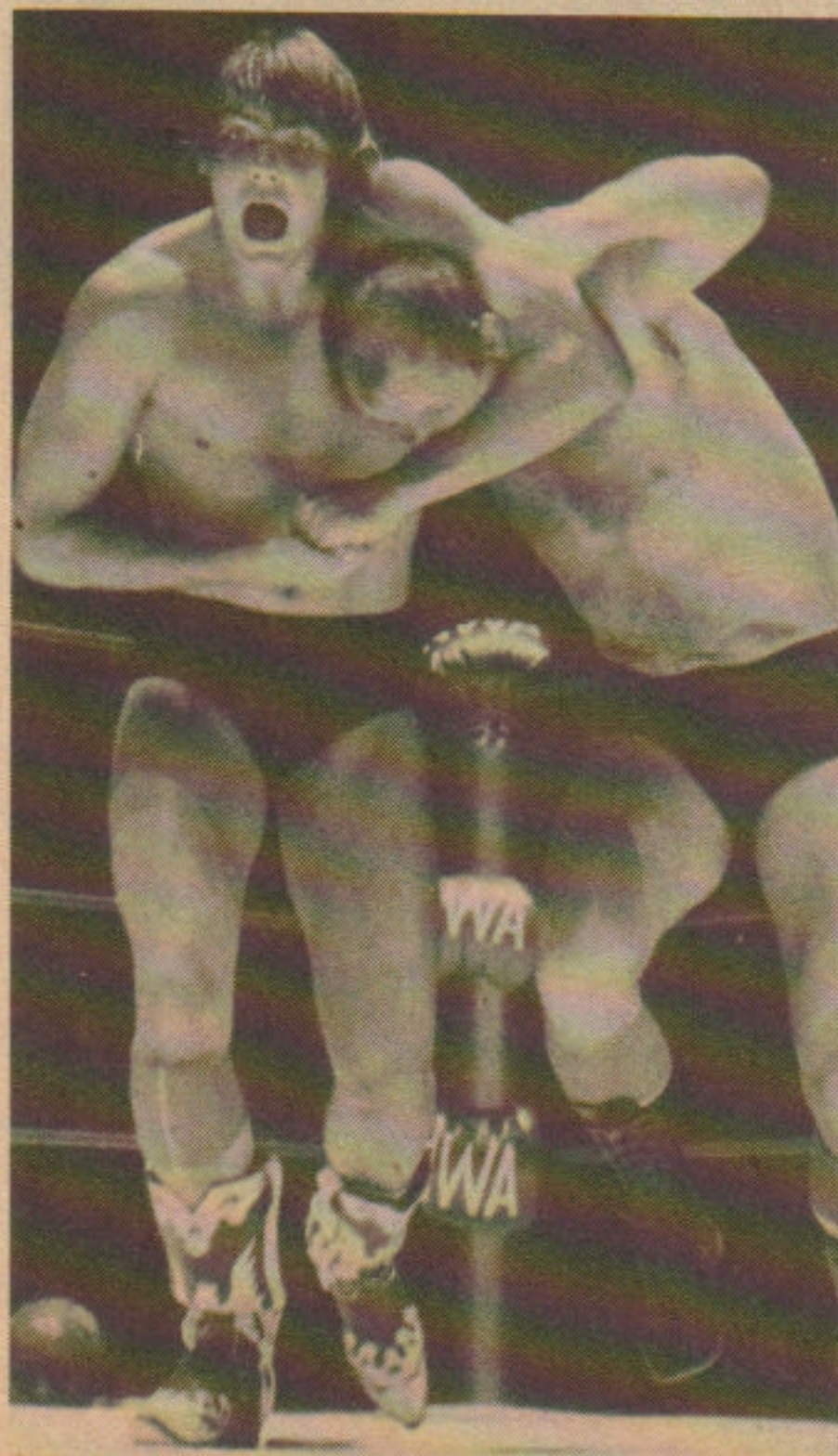
"Now that's pretty nice, if you can remember what his ugly kisser looks like," said Funk. "Then, his face comes into view. First I see the nose, then I see the eyes, then I see the mouth. But it ain't Dusty's face no more. No, it's Barry Windham's face. Then I look around this dream ring and there's about a hundred wrestlers who all look like Windham. And they're comin' for me. Before I know it, they're joined by Jack Brisco and there's 'bout a hundred or thousand of them, I can't count anymore.

"And they're all comin' toward me. And I can't do nothin'. Know how in a dream, you sometimes just can't move? Well, I just can't move. I'm frozen and I'm hollerin' for them to stay back lest I bash their faces in but all I can do is holler and scream and then I'm sittin' up in bed, sweatin' like a pig."

If this nightmare were merely confined to Dory Funk's subconscious, it wouldn't pose



Barry Windham feels the pain in his shoulder as Dory Funk Jr. increases the pressure on his armbar (above). Barry's flying bulldog headlock (below) is a move that Funk, a Texan, knows to respect.



quite the problem it does for the former NWA champion. But this nightmare extends into real life for Funk. For some reason, this Texas brawler cannot defeat young Barry Windham.

"Can't whip him and I don't know why," says Funk, shaking his head.

Perhaps the reason can be gleaned from the January title match between then-Florida champion Funk and challenger Windham. Apparently Funk had Windham at his mercy and was about to pin the youngster. But Funk had Windham by the trunks, holding him down in an illegal pin. The referee didn't see it. At least until Jack Brisco raced into the ring and pointed it out to the referee.

(Continued on page 54)

Tony Atlas vs.

THE WAR WREST SUPE

They hate each other. These two muscular
Hogan, will go to any lengths to prove t
But is it only wrestling jealousy
combat? Or is there another r

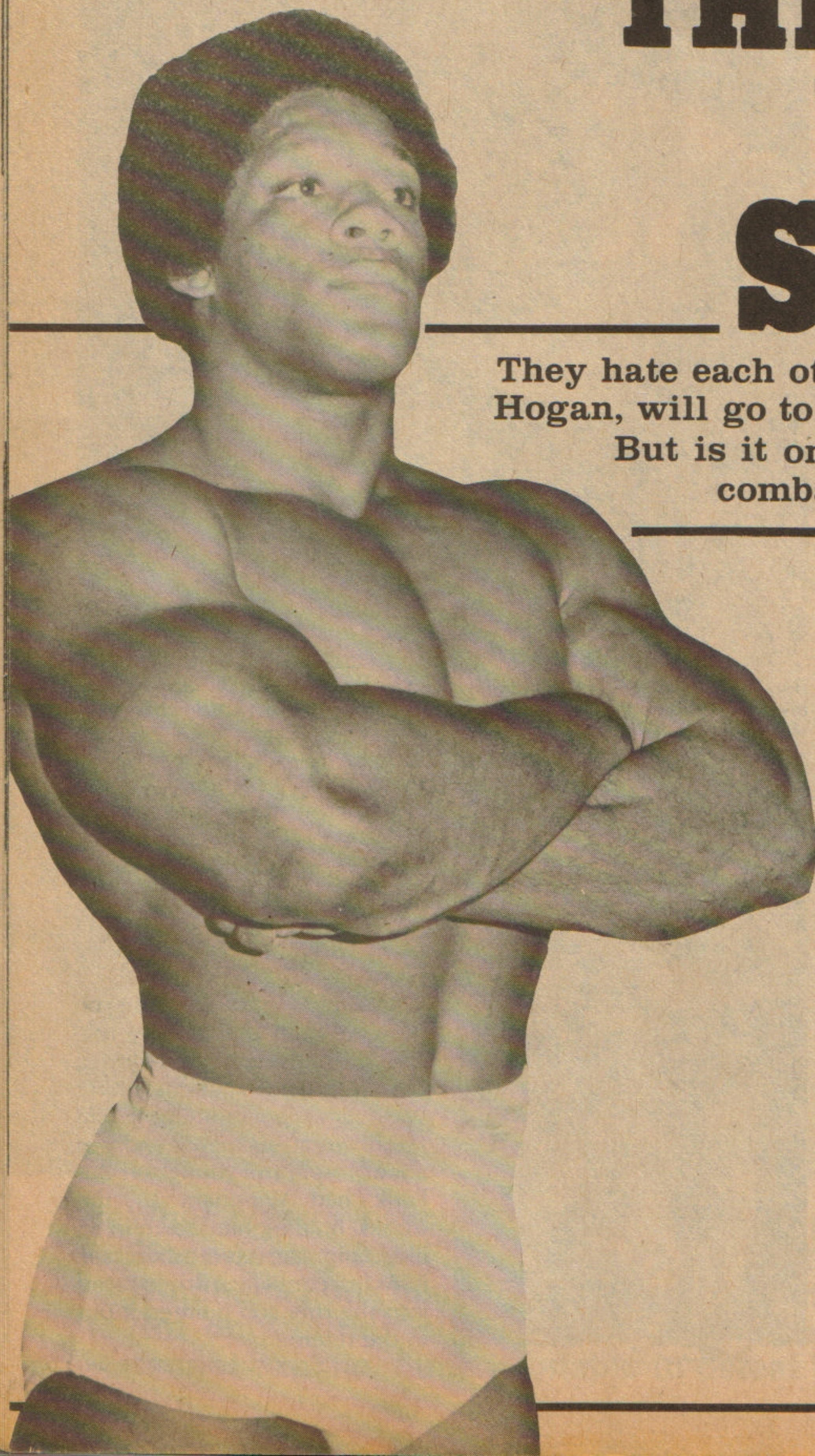
THEY SIMPLY DON'T like each other. Let's amend that statement. They hate each other. Hate each other with every fiber of their muscular bodies.

"Atlas?" Hulk Hogan laughed. "You call that guy a wrestler? I've seen guys on the beach who can wrestle better than Atlas. That boy can't hold a candle to a lotta people who are discriminated against 'cause they don't bow and scrape to the fans."

"Hulk Hogan's a loser," said Atlas. "He ain't done nothin' his big mouth said he would do. All he can do is shoot off his big mouth and make a lotta big mouthwaves 'cause he knows he can't do nothin' in the ring. A guy like Hogan ain't a rassler but an over-sized bum."

This feud has been simmering for some time now. Unlike many feuds, where the protagonists find themselves embroiled in something they never intended, the Atlas-Hogan wars were inevitable, even before they ended up in the same area.

Why? Because in some respects,



BETWEEN CLING'S ARMEN

For behemoths, Tony Atlas and Hulk Hogan, their respective wrestling supremacy. Which propels both men into a season for their brutal feud?

they are quite similar. That remark prompts angry denials.

"Ain't nothin' you can say in the whole world that would link me to Atlas," said Hogan. "Just 'cause I got a great body and that Atlas thinks he got a great body ain't no reason to say there's any similarities at all."

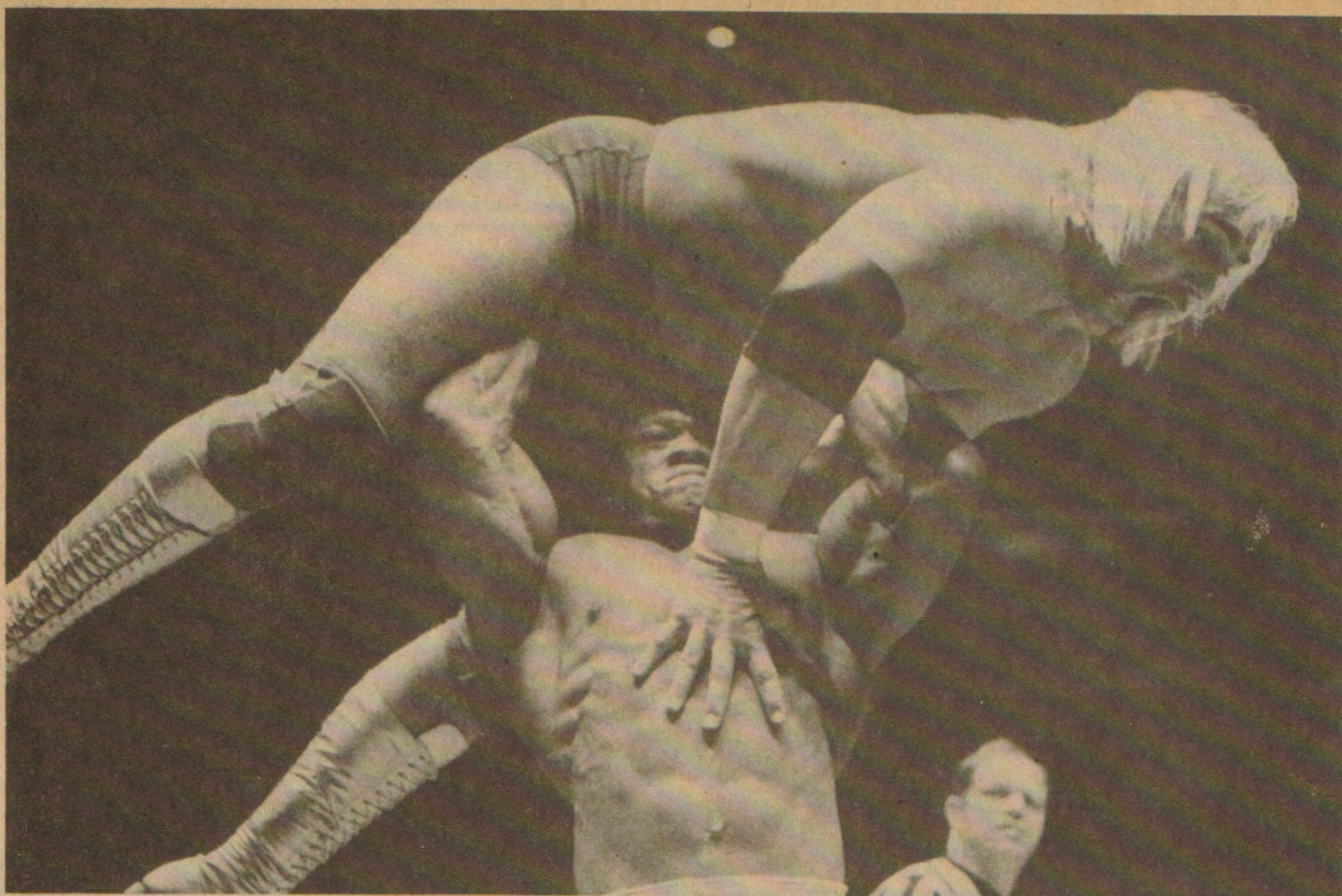
For once, Atlas agrees with his foe.

"Lotsa people look at us and all they can see is our physiques. They figure since Hogan's built himself up, and I'm Mr. USA and been winnin' body-buildin' championships for a long time now, they think we got similar techniques or somethin'.

"The truth of the matter is, Hogan uses his strength for evil while I use my strength for good. Just look at the way we rattle. All Hogan can do is break the rules. He only knows how to cheat, nothin' more than that. If he's so good, then how come he's gotta cheat? If he's so strong, how come he gotta cheat? If he's so talented, then how come he gotta cheat?"

Atlas raises an age-old question





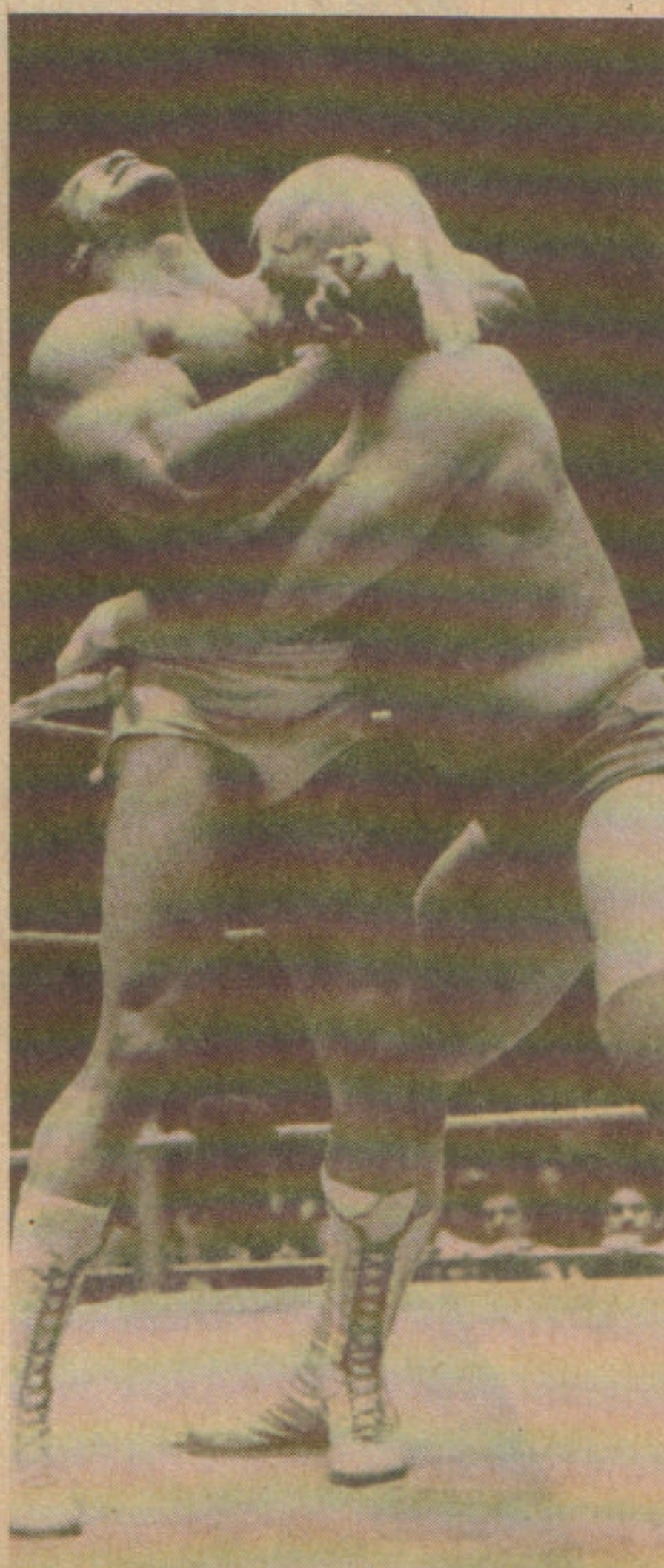
Hulk Hogan wraps his powerful arms around Tony Atlas' waist, leaving the former Mr. USA gasping for air (right). Nobody in the arena is more shocked than Hulk Hogan with Atlas' display of strength (above).

which has nagged professional wrestling from the beginning of time. And Hogan has a ready, self-serving answer.

"I don't cheat," Hogan said. "Not a bit. I don't have to cheat, not when I'm wrestlin' a punk like Atlas. What you see in the ring is me havin' to stoop to his level of wrestlin'.

"You know, there's an old sayin' in wrestlin' that you always rise to the level of your competition. You can be the single greatest wrestler who ever lived, which is me, and if you have to wrestle a bum like Atlas who can barely stretch out his arms 'cause he's so over-developed, then I ain't gonna look quite as good as I might. That's only 'cause I'm wrestling a bum.

"Gimme some real competition, which there probably ain't in this WWF, and you'll see the real Hulk Hogan. But I don't see anyone



capable of rising up to my level," Hogan continued.

Yet the critical difference, and the fuel for their feud, rests in their different approaches to building their bodies. Hogan builds his superb physique through more floor exercises like pushups and lifting heavier weights, while Atlas pumps lighter weights in greater repetition to gain definition in his muscles.

"Hogan don't know the first thing 'bout exercisin'," thundered Atlas. "He thinks he can do 200 pushups and that gives him strength. Well, my strength is more useful in the ring than his strength."

"Don't take much to keep pumpin' those light weights," said Hogan. "Naturally it don't, 'cause Tony Atlas does it."

Perhaps the only method to settling this violent feud is in the ring. Only there can the dissimilar styles and common contempt be settled. One match between the two is history.

Both men eagerly await future battles. □

Rick Steamboat Reveals:

Can this possibly be true? Rick Steamboat has shocked and stunned the entire wrestling world by this amazing admission. According to Steamboat, his good friend, Ric Flair, is contemplating turning bad again. The vast implications of Flair's contemplated move could undo all of professional wrestling



RIC FLAIR WILL TURN BAD AGAIN!

THE MATCH JUST ENDED. But for Ric Flair, perhaps Rick Steamboat, and maybe all of professional wrestling, the ordeal had just begun.

Flair stormed into the locker room, overturning stools and flinging towels and glasses around the floor. For a while, all one could hear were his insane mutterings as he careened around the room like a man possessed.

"I'm sick of this garbage, just sick and tired of this garbage,"

yelled Flair, slamming another locker. "They get all the breaks, you know, all the breaks. Look at what they get away with. The refs never stop 'em. Oh, they can try and stop 'em, but it don't matter.

"Let me do one little thing outta line, just one little thing, and they climb all over my back," screamed Flair. "I can't breathe wrong without someone dumpin' on me and I'm sick and tired of it.

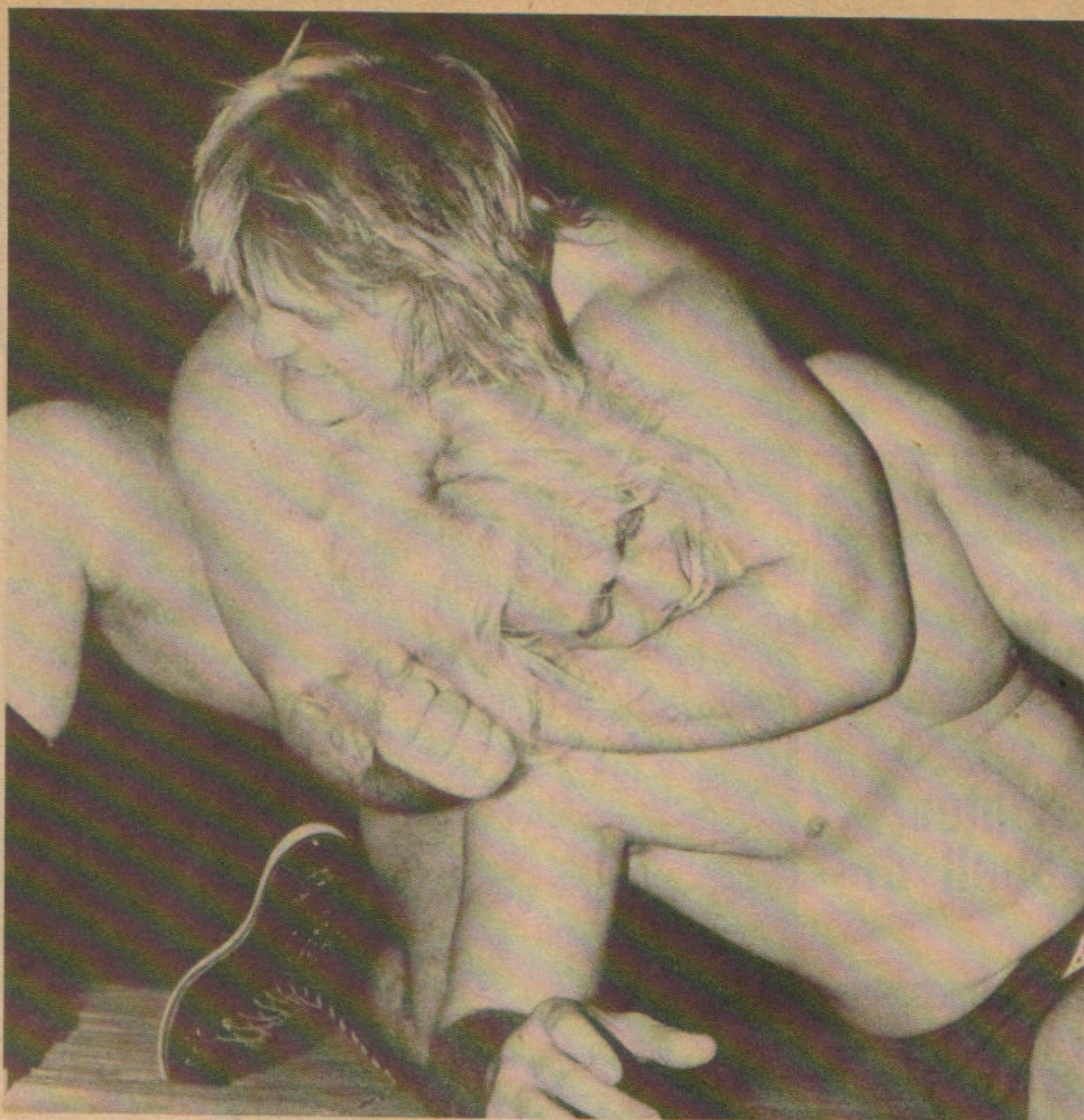
"Maybe I was a lot better off before, before I tried to be nice,

before I tried to treat people and everyone decently. Look what I get for my efforts now. All I get is garbage. We don't wrestle as aggressively as them, we don't get the breaks, I don't even think the fans give a damn about me anymore and I'm just fed up, hear, I'm just fed up."

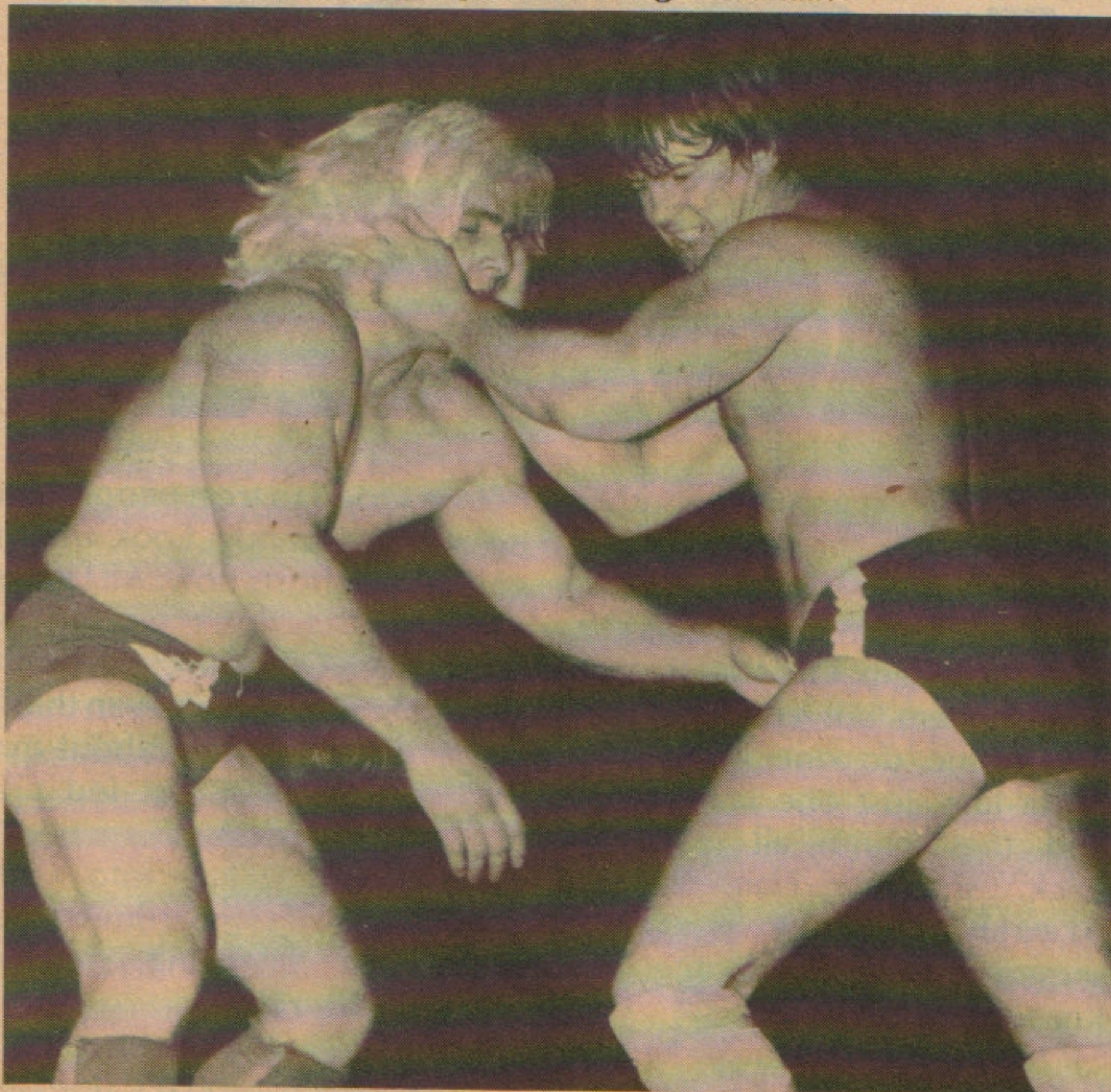
Flair thundered into the shower, the bombardment of hot water silencing, for a moment, his rage.

But the hot shower didn't quell Rick Steamboat's unease.

PHOTOS BY EDDIE CHESLOCK



For several months, the frustration has built from within Ric Flair. He cannot understand how the sport of wrestling can cater to those who chose not to follow the rules. He used to be one of those wrestlers, and if things keep up, he may soon be one of them again. Above: Greg Valentine's headlock will soon turn into a chokehold. Below: Roddy Piper pulls Ric's long blond hair.



Throughout this eruption, Steamboat, Flair's partner that night against Roddy Piper and Greg Valentine, and perhaps Ric's best friend, stood off to the side, alarm etched on his handsome features.

Steamboat made no attempt to calm Flair down. He made no attempt to do anything except stand off to the side and shake his head in distress.

This explosion merely confirmed Steamboat's very worst fears.

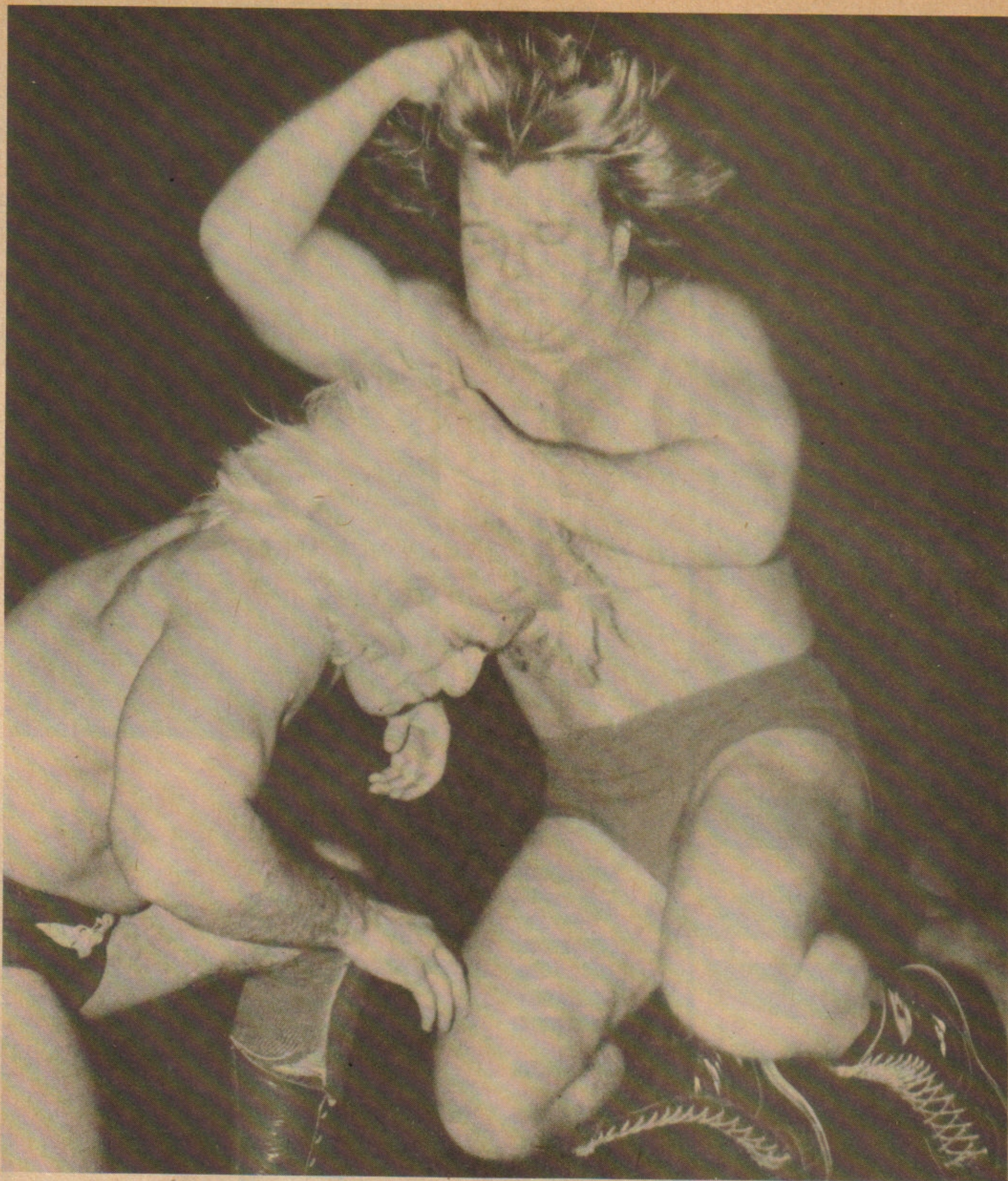
"I think he's gonna turn bad again," said Steamboat later that night when all had left the arena. He sipped a beer, his eyes darting from the floor to the ceiling, never focusing for any length of time on his guest.

"I've been worrying about him for a long time now," said Steamboat in a soft, pained tone. "I was afraid to say anything before or even broach him about the topic until the other night. I could see something was disturbing his universal waves, that something interfered with his waves.

"We had dinner and I asked him what was wrong. He wouldn't say. I insisted he tell me, that I could help. He just looked up and told me how frustrated he was getting. Again, I tried to pinpoint what he was talking about. Finally he just said he thought that maybe he made a mistake wrestling as a scientific wrestler instead of a rulebreaker.

"I tried to again localize his anguish. It is very helpful to localize trouble so that it doesn't spread. But I could already see that Flair's unease had spread throughout his body. He already talked as if his scientific wrestling career were in the past.

"I hoped it was just the moment, that Flair had yet to get over losing the U.S. title to Piper and still hadn't managed to deal with his inability to win the NWA title. But I could see that there



Valentine and Flair have been involved in some of the ugliest battles ever witnessed in the Mid-Atlantic. Whenever they meet, the rulebook becomes meaningless. And that, Flair feels, favors his sadistic opponent.

was no way I could control his anger.

"He is very frustrated. He is very angry that men like Valentine and Piper get away with whatever they want in the ring and we cannot stop them. I

do not think, at all, at all, I stress, that Flair genuinely dislikes the fans or me or any of our scientific wrestling brethren here in the Mid-Atlantic area.

"But I think he has reached his boiling point. I think he is ready

to explode. And even as his closest friend, I do not know how to help him," said Steamboat.

With that, Steamboat sighed heavily and left. He was alone. Just like Ric Flair, alone with his frustrated pain. □

WRESTLING

ENQUIRER

**WWF OFFICIALS
MEET TO STRIP
MOONDOGS
OF TITLE**

BY BILL APTER
Exclusive to The Enquirer

NEW YORK, NY—A senior official within the WWF offices has suggested proceedings are

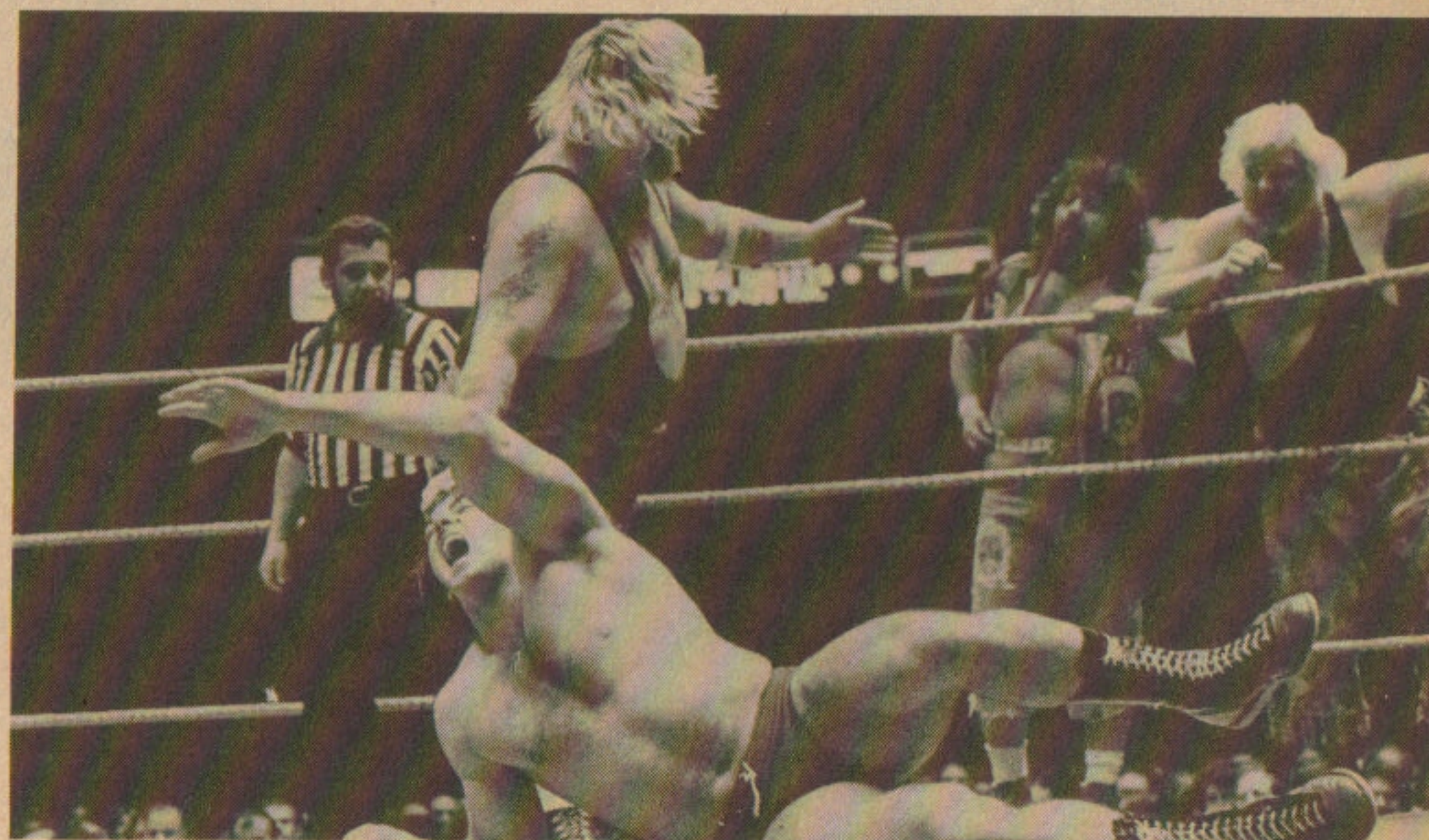
underway to strip The Moondogs, Rex and King, of their WWF tag team title.

"We just cannot allow these men to continue as champions," said the source. "These men are

obviously mentally deranged and unable to perform their duties as champions. We have had several psychiatrists examining the reports and their conclusions are unanimous. The Moondogs must go."

Captain Lou Albano, manager of the Dogs, has vowed to fight any and all attempts to strip his men of their belts.

"Only way anyone is gonna do that is over my dead body," vowed the Captain.



HAND OUT: Moondog King holds Rick Martel and looks for a tag from either Rex or manager Lou Albano during a six-man tag team match against Martel, Tony Garea, and Pat Patterson. There could be trouble ahead for The Moondogs.

Rivera Vows 'Never Dirty Again'

BY GARY MORGENSTEIN

LOS ANGELES, CA—Victor Rivera has seen the light. He knows what he did was wrong. He knows what he did in the past hurt a lot of people. And he swears never to do it again.

"I'll never be dirty again," vowed Rivera. "My momma swung my head around. I'm real sorry for all the pain I cause. I never do it again."



ONE EXCEPTION: While Victor Rivera has vowed to wrestle cleanly from now on, John Tolos still brings out the worst in him.

Mr. Wrestling II Follows Andersons To Mid-Atlantic

BY STU SAKS

RICHMOND, VA—Is Mr. Wrestling II headed to the Mid-Atlantic area on a permanent

basis?

"Well, I don't know if it's permanent or not," said II. "But I've got quite a bit of encouragement to try and clean things up in the Mid-Atlantic area. Those two Andersons are running crazy and I'm not about to let them get away with that."

Gene and Ole Anderson, long-time enemies of II, have formed a tag team in the Mid-Atlantic area.

"They have to understand that I follow evil wherever it goes," said II. "And as far as I'm concerned, Gene and Ole Anderson are evil incarnate."



TRAVELING MAN: Mr. Wrestling II is about to leave for a stay of undetermined length in the Mid-Atlantic.

DiBiase Returns Against Freebirds

BY PETER KING

ATLANTA, GA—Ted DiBiase, severely injured in a piledriver attack by Terry Gordy of The

Freebirds, returned to wrestling in a spectacular fashion before a SRO crowd at Atlanta's Omni. DiBiase teamed with good friend Junkyard Dog in opposing those

same Freebirds who had injured him weeks ago.

"It felt good to be back," DiBiase said after the match. "I promised I would return and cripple The Freebirds. Tonight I put a little hurt on them. Next time they'll all leave on stretchers."

Samoans Invade Louisiana

BY STEVE FARHOOD

NEW ORLEANS, LA—After a worldwide tour which earned them hatred and fear across the planet, The Samoans, Afa and Sika have invaded Louisiana intent on winning the Mid-South tag team title.

The former WWF tag team champions haven't changed. They are still as brutal, fierce, and insane as ever. And they threaten to turn the entire state of Louisiana upside down with their maniacal ferocity.



SAMOAN SADISTS: Afa and Sika, The Samoans, have sent many a tag team down Bourbon Street singing the blues since turning up in Louisiana.

LOOKING AT...

Matt Brock:



NEVER FORGET THE first time I met him.

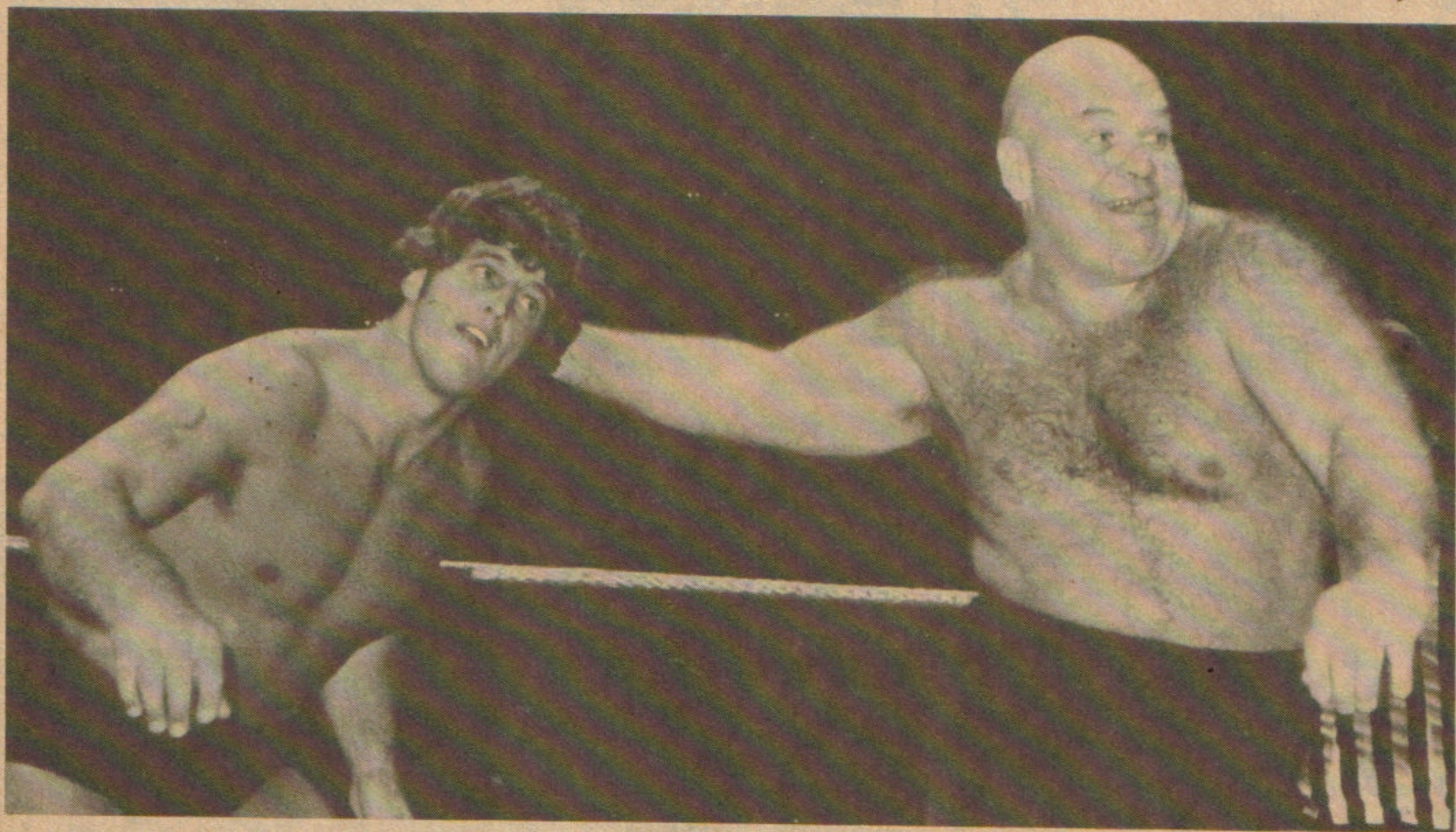
I was eating dinner in a cute little Italian joint on West 10th Street. Just as I bit into my pasta, I hear this commotion behind me. A lot of commotion. Too much commotion for me. Last time I was at this joint, a guy's finger ended up in a Caesar salad. So ol' Matt, not

being one to look for trouble, started sliding down in his chair, grabbing a piece of bread with him.

But it wasn't real trouble. It was George "The Animal" Steele requesting a table. Only problem was, Steele didn't want a table to sit at. He wanted to eat a table. Fact of

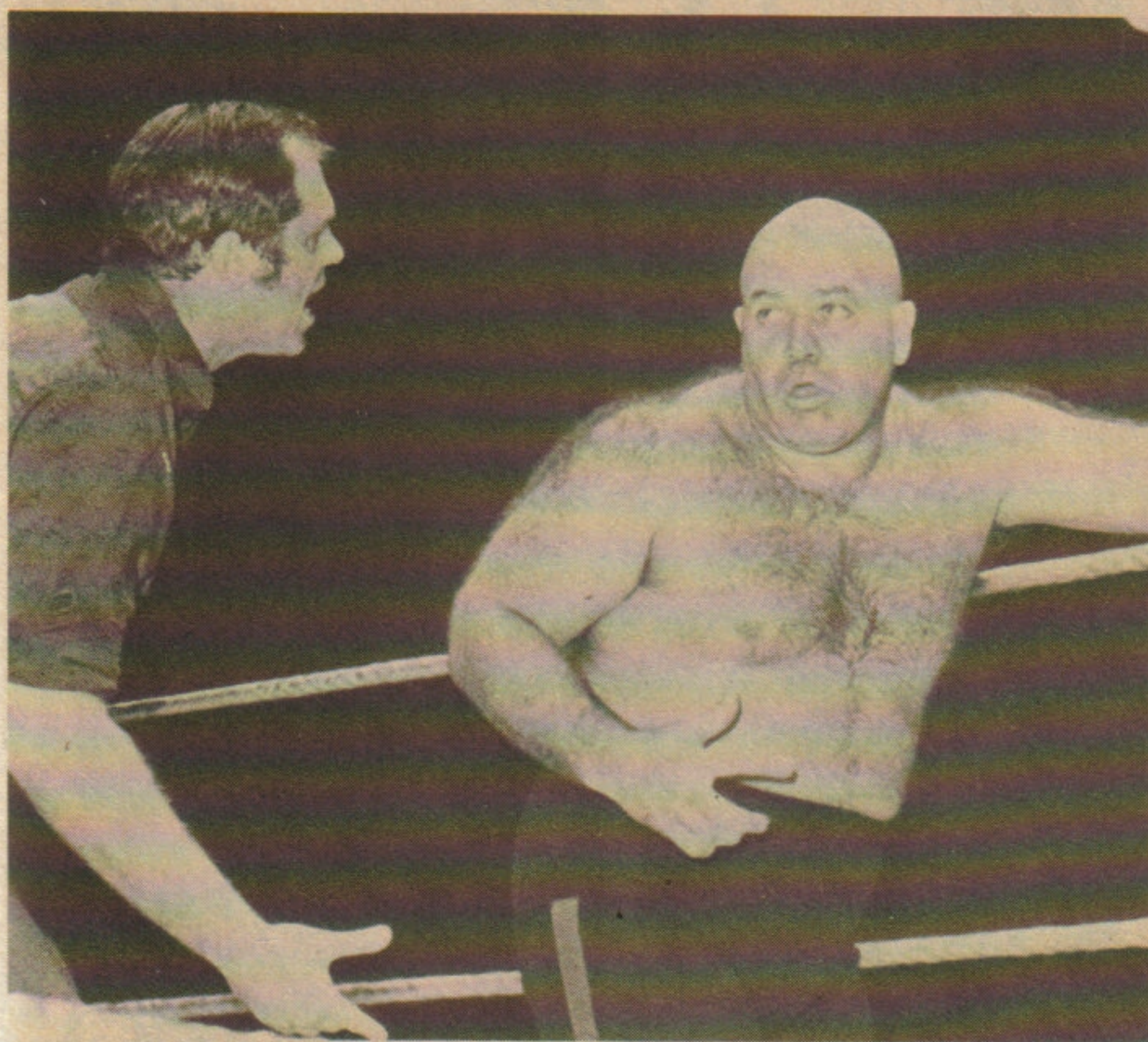
the matter is, Steele wanted to eat a table where a distinguished gray-haired couple sat. I whirled and saw Steele munching on a checkered tablecloth as this couple turned white. It took five waiters to get Steele out.

I don't think there's anyone



With tongue squeezed between his teeth, George Steele takes Tony Garea for a ride across the ring. Do we see a little of ourselves in the Animal?

GEORGE STEELE



Referee Dick Kroll tries to convince George Steele to wrestle according to the rulebook. Others have tried.

stranger than Steele. Even my Uncle Mort the tailor, who swallows needles and hums "Moonlight Serenade" simultaneously. Steele's even stranger than him. But why?

I always wondered about how George Steele got the way he did. Was there some horrible accident causing extensive brain damage? I

dismiss that one since Steele has no other scars. Was it some dreadful psychological trauma? Maybe.

Then I stopped wondering, quelled my journalistic curiosity, and accepted him as a full-fledged madman. And he *is* a full-fledged madman. Whatever's upstairs is totally and completely deranged.

Still, "The Animal" has appeal and I don't think it has anything to do with pity. More horror. People are so terrified of the man and his violent unpredictability that they simply don't know what to make of him. They aren't surprised by anything he does.

But there is something substantial to Steele. Maybe it's like looking into a mirror of our own souls. Maybe we see part of ourselves in Steele. Maybe we see a life without reason. A life without control. A mind pushed beyond the very limits and into another dimension so alien to us, we cannot cope.

So we scorn him. We call him names. We make fun. We try to hide behind our own purported superiority when, in fact, we are merely cowering behind our own fears.

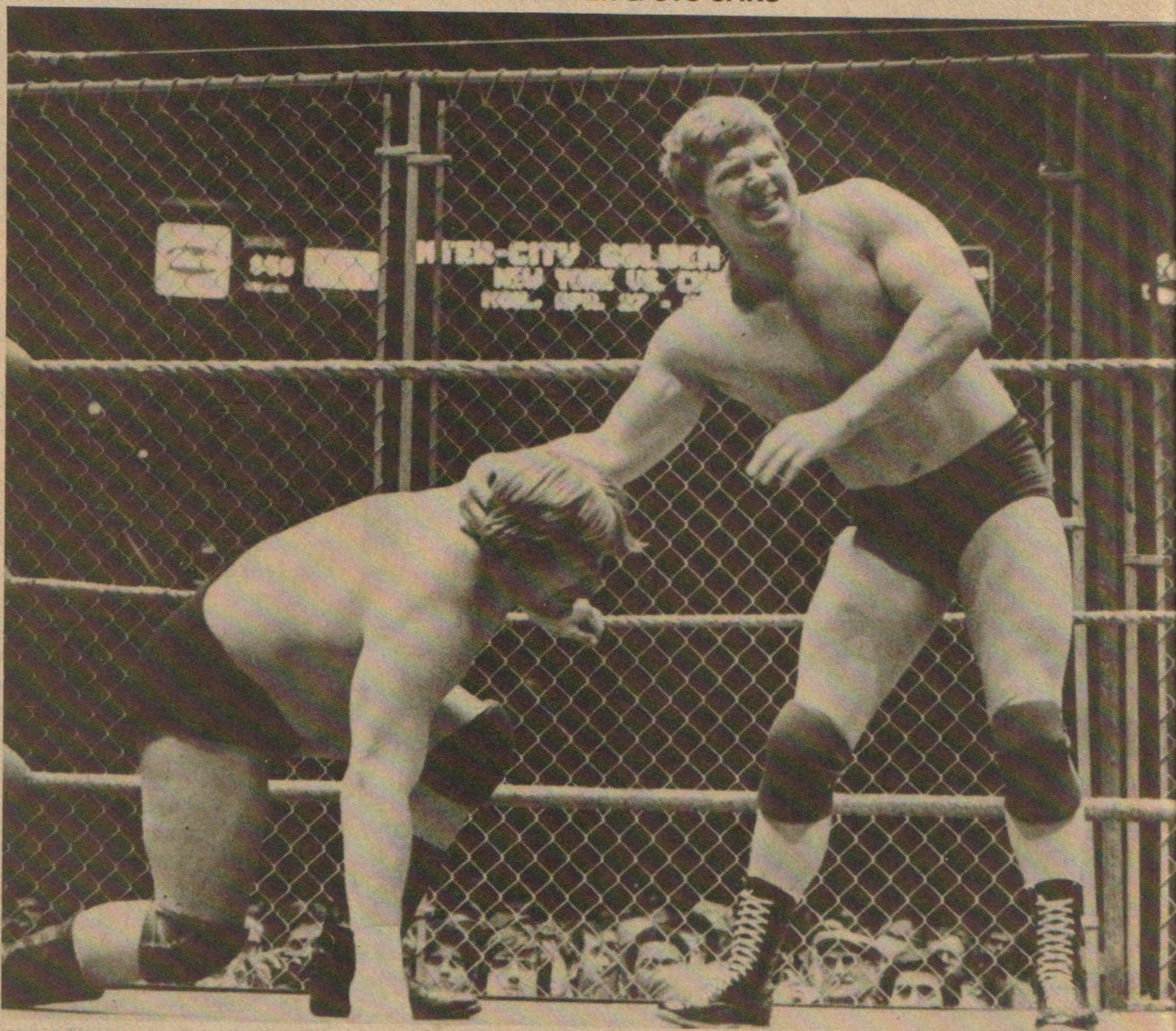
Perhaps we all know, deep down, what happens the moment we accept Steele. Maybe, myself included, the prospect terrifies us and drives us away.

Maybe all of us, deep, deep within our gut, know that to accept Steele and refrain from scorn, we will be confronting a dark chamber of our own souls.

Just maybe. And then, who's the real Animal? □

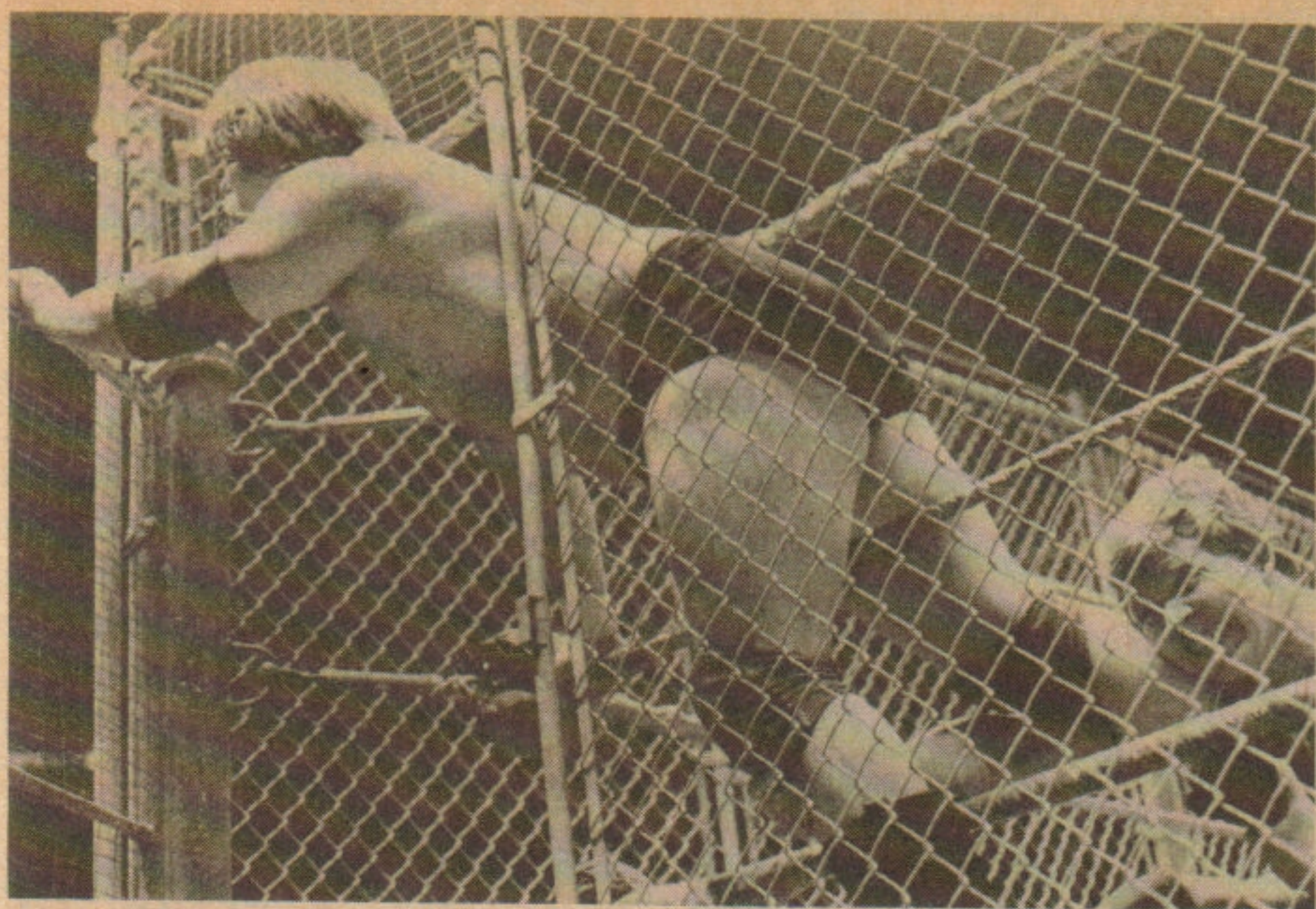
BOB BACKLUND: THE SAVAGE BLOODLUST OF THE ALL-AMERICAN BOY

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER & STU SAKS

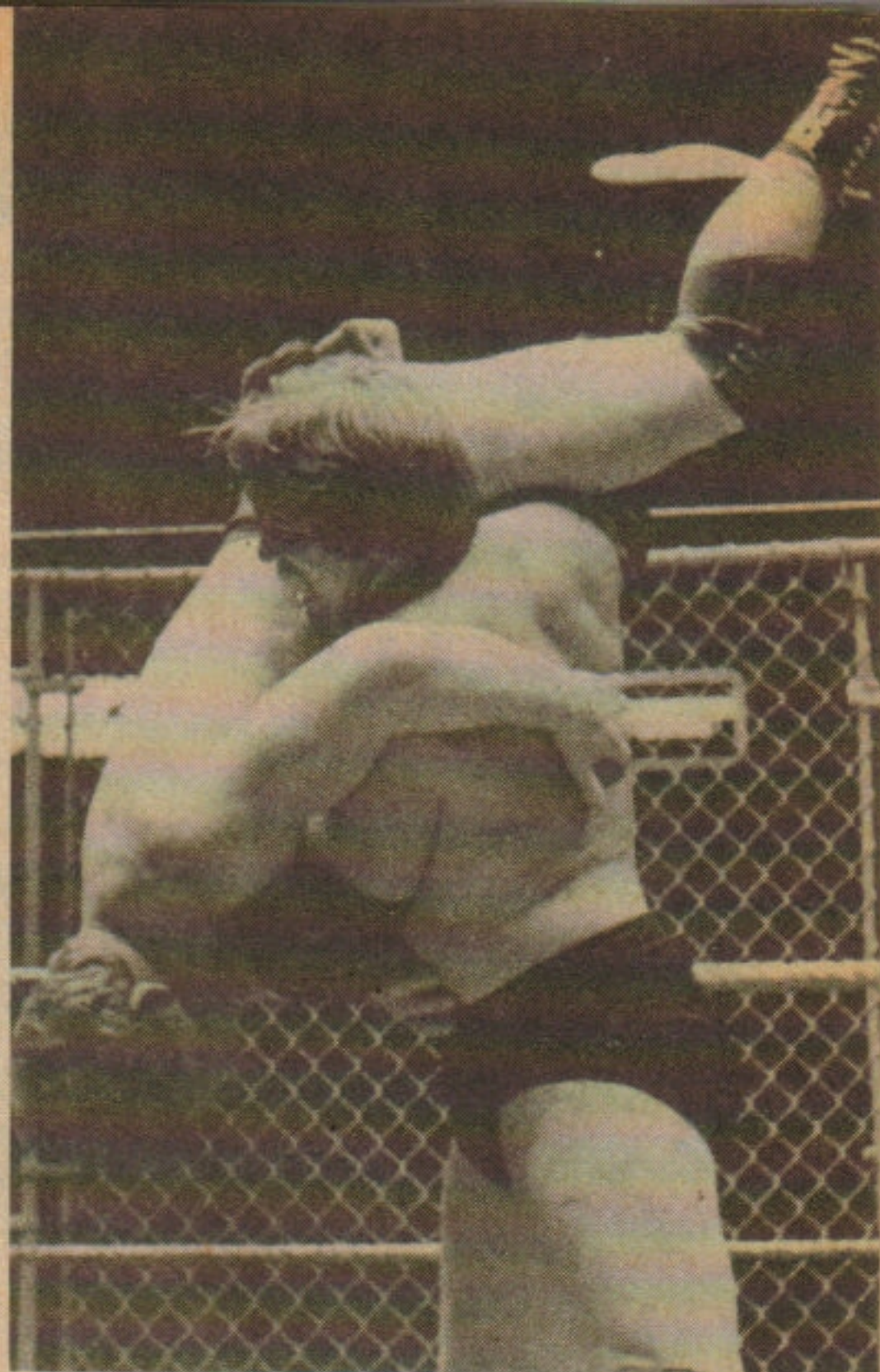


Bob Backlund has been in several cage matches during his three-year reign as WWF champion. But he never requested one. Against Stan Hansen, he demanded the cage.

Beneath the surface of every man lurks rage. Some are better able to control it than others. Some go an entire wrestling lifetime without ever succumbing to the beast within. For a while, it seemed Backlund would avoid seduction by the rage in his soul. No more



Hansen's attempt to get through the gate is thwarted at the last second as Backlund grabs his leg (above). Hansen scoops the champion up and slams him to the canvas (right). Backlund pounds away at the top of his challenger's head (below).



FOR THE FIRST time in his career, WWF champion Bob Backlund demanded a steel cage match.

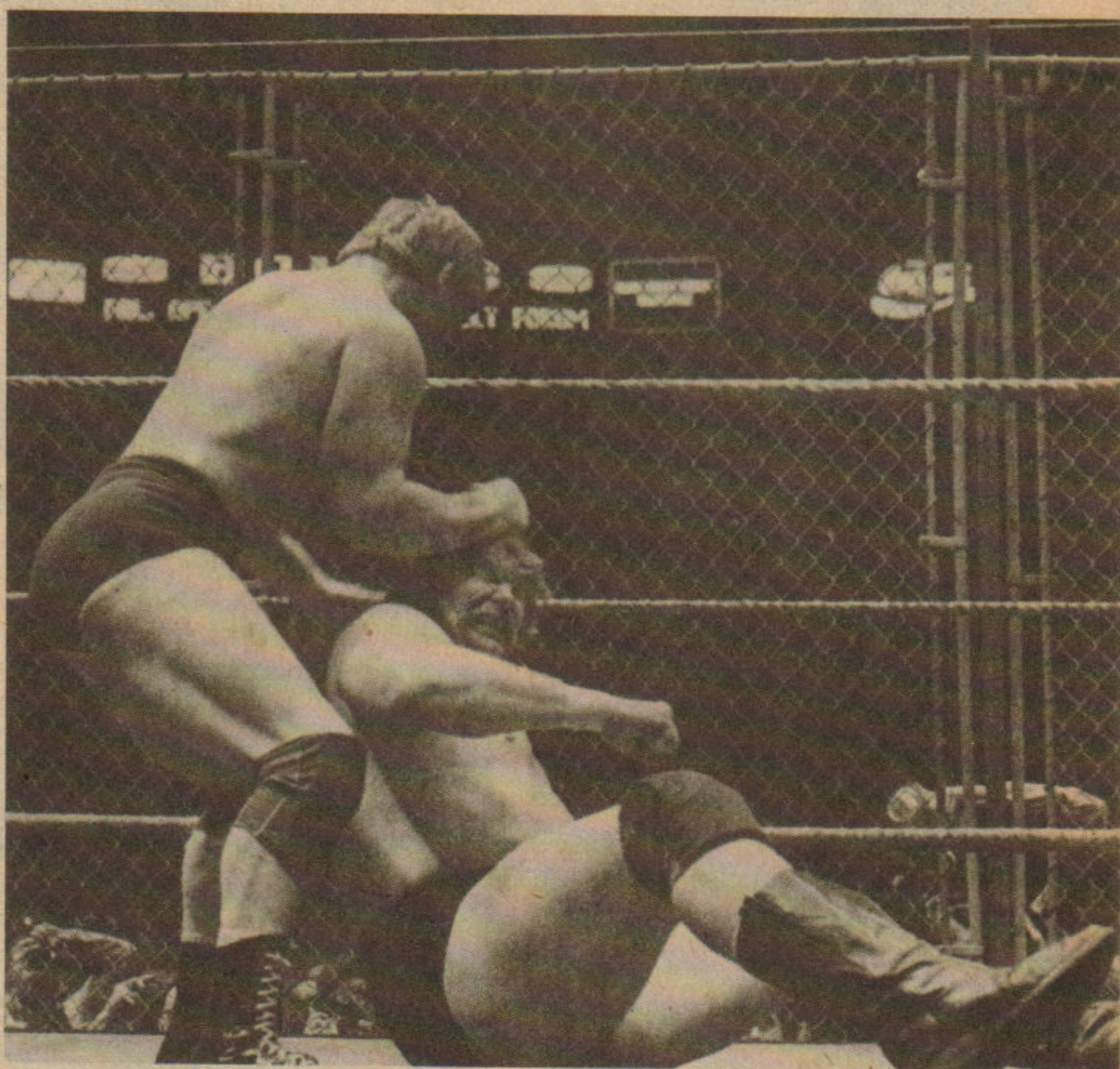
"I want Stan Hansen in the cage," yelled Backlund. "I want him trapped by steel. I want him where he can't hide and can't run. I want his head."

What transformed Backlund, a decent, law-abiding wrestler into this frenetic, obsessed madman bent on annihilating Stan Hansen?

"I think Bob's about had it with guys like Hansen," said Arnold Skoaland, Backlund's manager. "He's fed up with people coming in and breaking every rule in the book thinking they can get away with that because Bob is too decent."

"Well, I've been watching Bob simmer and stew for a few months now. I think what started shoving Bob over the edge of his patience was Killer Khan. Bob thought Khan was taking advantage of his basic good nature and Bob started wondering why he should ever have to take anything from men like that."

"At first, when he came to me, he was berserk with anger. I calmed him down, but I never tried

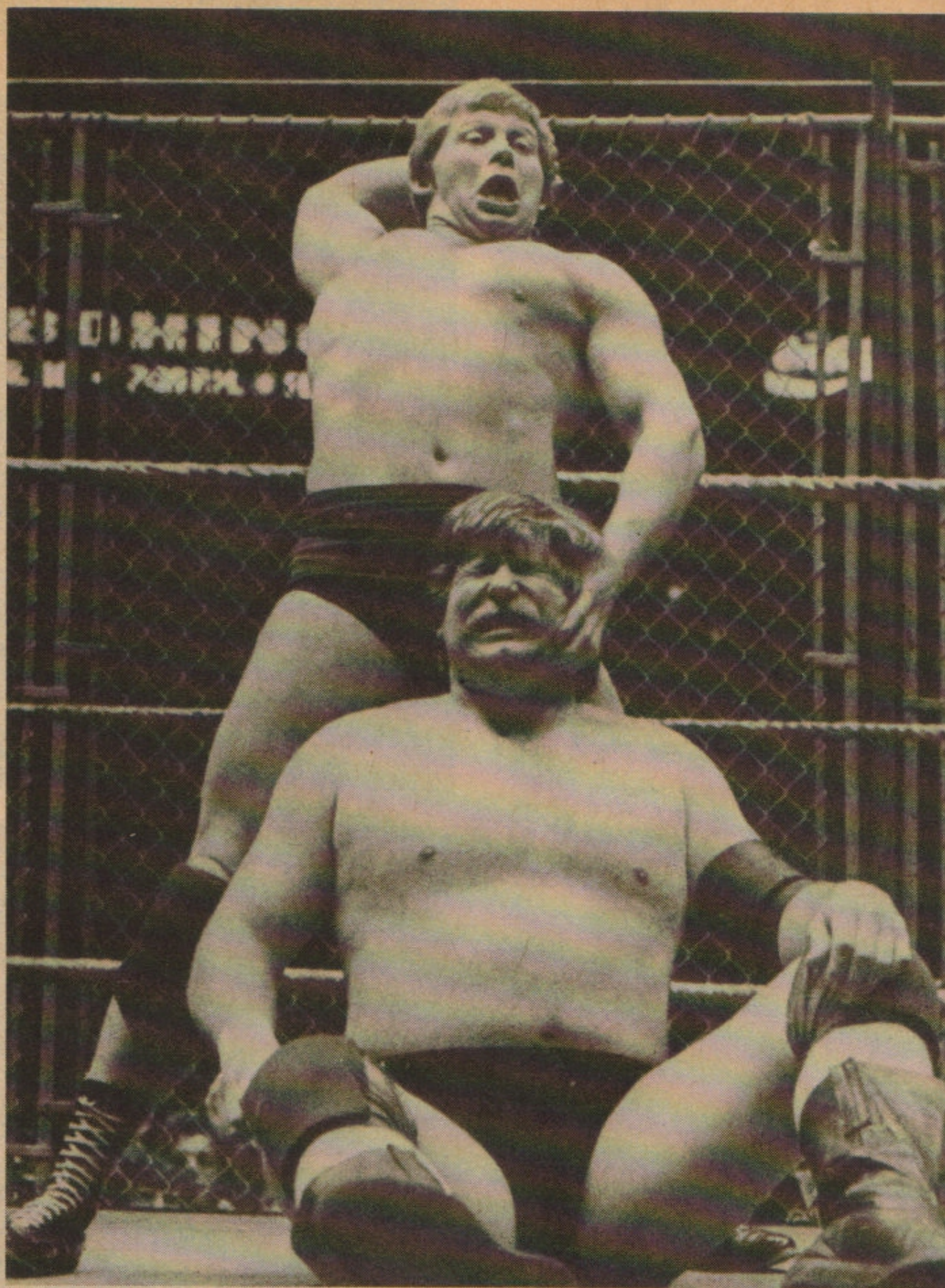


to talk him out of this steel cage match. I know how important it is to him. Boy, remember back to Bob's first steel cage match against Graham?"

Backlund's come a long way since that bloody steel cage match

against Superstar Billy Graham shortly after the youngster from Minnesota won the WWF title. More mature, more determined, Backlund wants nothing less than destroying Hansen.

Mention the name of Stan

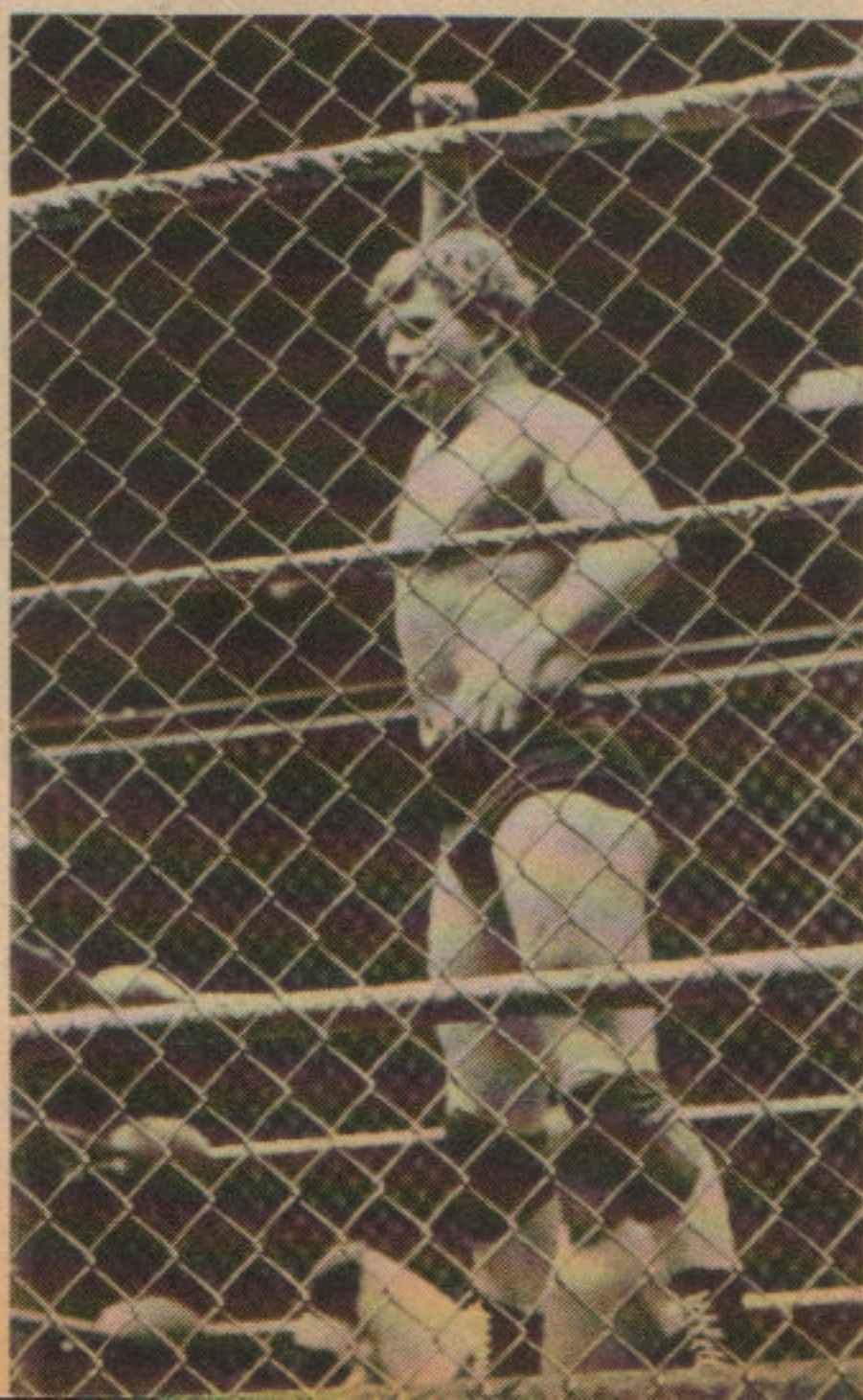


Backlund reaches way back to lend force to a sledgehammer right (above). Hansen seems to sense what is coming up from behind him. Just before walking through the gate, Backlund raises his arm in anticipation of his victory (below). He knows the fallen Hansen cannot prevent defeat.

Hansen to Bob Backlund and watch the metamorphosis begin. The champion's eyes narrow and brim with hate. His nostrils flare. His lower lips jut out, revealing white teeth clenched in contempt.

"He makes me sick," said Backlund. "He has absolutely not one good thing about him. He doesn't deserve to wrestle, no, a man like that shouldn't be allowed to wrestle. This sport is too good, too fine, and means too much to people to allow someone like that around."

"All these years, people have gunned for me because I'm the champion. Now it's my turn. Now



I'm gonna go after people and stop them before they do any further damage. I don't care who it is, whether it be Hansen or Slaughter or whoever, from this moment on, Bob Backlund vows to stop those rulebreakers dead in their tracks."

Unlike some wrestlers who think talking constitutes acting, Backlund backed up his words with action. The WWF champion displayed a savagery never seen before in his ring game. Even those closest to Backlund were stunned.

"I've never seen him wrestle like that," said Skoaland. "I just couldn't believe it."

From the start of the match, Backlund hungered for Hansen's blood. The champion seized Hansen and rammed his head into the cage. That was just the beginning.

Backlund ran Hansen's head along the steel, drawing a river of blood. But the champion continued pummeling Hansen, determined to wreak as much pain as possible on the challenger.

When the match was over, Backlund sat in the locker and discussed what had just happened.

"Proud of myself?" Backlund asked, toweling himself off. "I don't know if proud of myself is the right way to put it. This was something I had to do. I couldn't stand Hansen anymore. I can't let these guys get away with this stuff anymore."

"Someone has to do something. It isn't enough for even me to stop them. All of us, me, Bruno, Andre, Patterson, Martel, Garea, the others, all of us gotta stop these rulebreakers or there won't be such a thing as professional wrestling left."

"And you can bet that I'll never let that happen. I'll never let men like that take control. They'd have to leave me for dead in a steel cage before I'll ever let animals like Stan Hansen win."

"They wanted this war and now they've got it. Let Hansen's blood serve as a warning to all who want to ruin wrestling. No more." □

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

(Continued from Page 29)

BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"You know, I am doggone sick and tired of these guys comin' into the WWF and lookin' for trouble. Why can't they just come in here without their doggone big mouths shootin' off and makin' talk about things and people they don't even know."



TONY ATLAS

"I'm gonna get that Harley Race if it's the last thing I ever do. I know I'm real close to gettin' his title. I know I'm just a match away from winnin' the NWA championship. I can feel it in my bones and I know I'm gonna do it real soon."



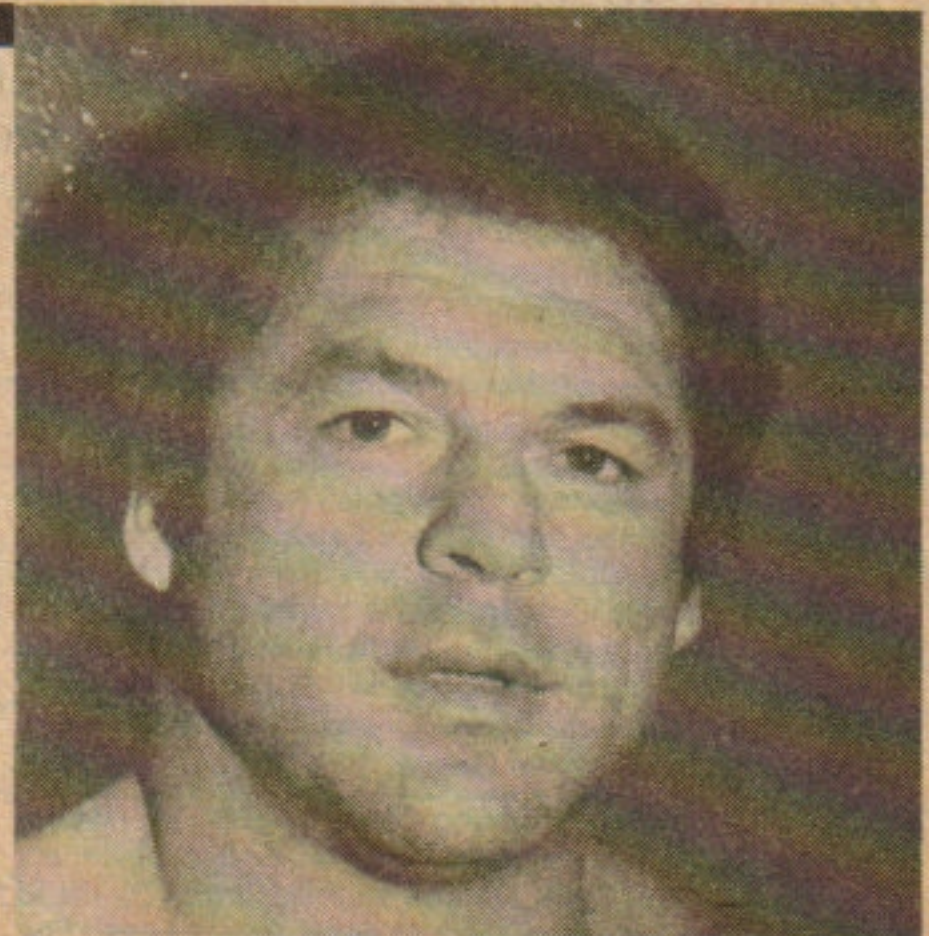
BOBBY HEENAN

"Just a matter of time for Verne Gagne. He's so old you can hear his bones creak in the ring. He's so old he was a private in the Union Army. He's so old he knew George Washington. And he's too old and feeble to be AWA champion."



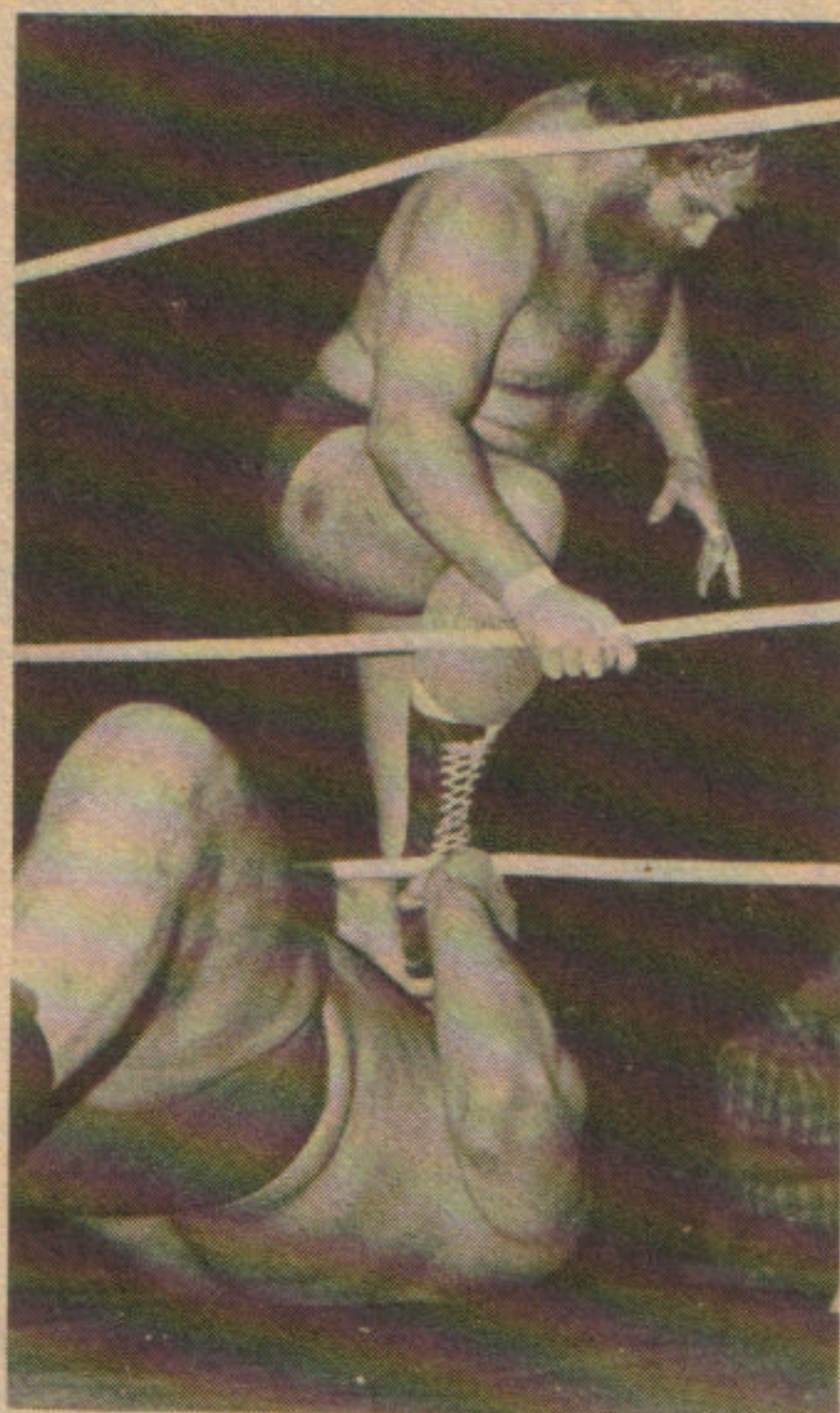
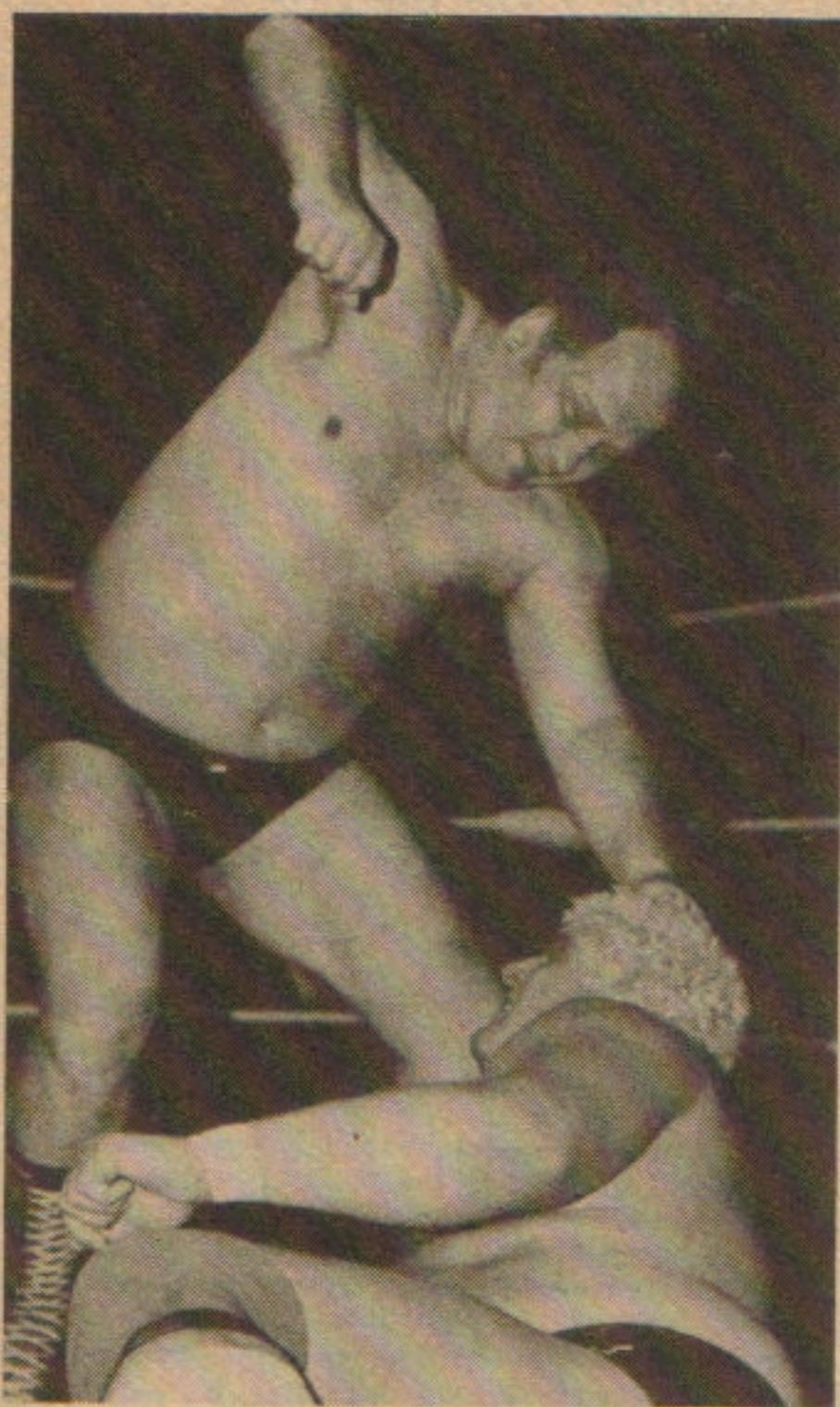
IVAN PUTSKI

"I am very glad to be here in Texas. I love this area. The fans are very knowledgeable. They know the difference between right and wrong, even if some wrestlers down here don't. Well, I'll change that soon as I finish lacing up my shoes." □



ANDERSON BROTHERS

(Continued from Page 25)



Could The Anderson Brothers have the secret to the destruction of Jones and Superstar? They could be using Andre and Dusty as a test. Ole brings a right down on a fallen Rhodes (above left). Ole chokes the Giant with his foot (above right). Andre leans into a headlock on Ole (below).

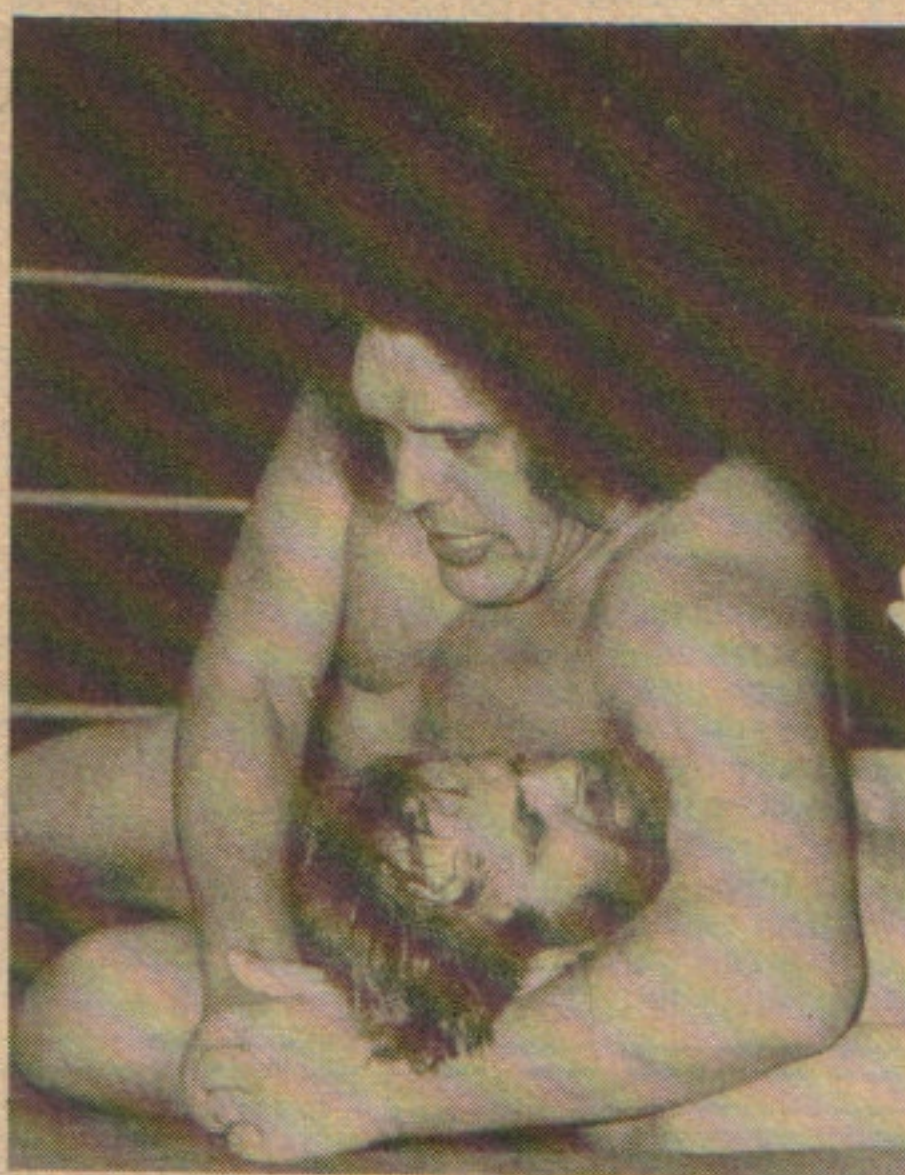
sighed deeply, and continued. "This guy said he knew the secret weapon to once and for all destroy Paul Jones and Masked Superstar. But he said he'd only give it up for a price."

The entire office edged closer to this woman.

"He told the Andersons that, for \$50,000, he would sell them the secret if they promised they'd never give it up and only *they* would use it. Gene asked the guy why them, why not someone else. The guy kinda tilted his head funny and said he had his reasons.

"Right after that, they left the restaurant together. So I don't know what the secret is, only that Gene and Ole are now a tag team again and they must have this terrible secret to use on Jones and Superstar."

Just to set up the



background, Gene Anderson had been advising Ivan Koloff and Ray Stevens when they won the NWA title from Jones and Superstar. Before that, Anderson managed Jimmy Snuka and Stevens during their reign before they lost the title to, yes, Jones and Superstar.

That Gene Anderson has

vengeance racing around his gut is no surprise.

"Jones and Superstar are louts and I'm gonna whip their faces into a million little pieces, me and Ole are," vowed Gene. "They cheated to beat Ray and Jimmy, then they cheated to beat Ivan and Ray. Well, they had their day in the sun. They're finished. And only me and Ole have the brains and skills and courage to take away those titles and once and for all destroy them."

On the subject of a secret weapon, Anderson was vague, neither confirming nor denying it.

"Oh yeah, we got the means, we got the tools to destroy them, don't worry none, know what we gotta do and how we're gonna do it and that's that," said Gene.

Yet the question lingers: were the Andersons forced to reunite?

In a real sense, they weren't. No one exerted undue pressure upon them to get back together. But in another sense, they were forced, banded together by common greed.

Nothing motivates men like Gene and Ole Anderson more than the prospect of success. Visions of huge paydays spirited through their minds at the thought of winning the NWA tag team title. Once lured by a secret weapon which would make them invincible, the Andersons couldn't say no. No matter what would happen subsequently, they were hooked. Greed drove them. Nothing can deter them.

Except maybe Paul Jones and Masked Superstar. □

KING'S COURT

(Continued from Page 6)

announcer, the only man of authority present, decided to halt the match at this point.

Afterwards, Funk needed 32 stitches. As the doctor sewed him up, Funk said through gritted teeth, "I'll get Lawler next time. Whether it be in



Terry sustains an injury in a previous bout against Lawler. The hatred between these two is intense.

Tennessee, or Florida, or in Japan, I'll get him. And no more of this empty arena stuff. Next time, I want a sold-out auditorium. Let there be thousands of witnesses to the end of Jerry Lawler."

Just a reminder to pick up a copy of this month's *Inside Wrestling*, on sale June 23. There is a spectacular interview with Barry Windham you have to read. In it, Windham tells why you'll never hear his name again. We guarantee this "Hotseat" feature with Barry Windham is one you'll never forget. ☐

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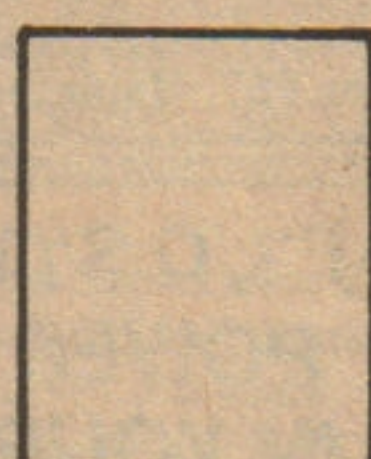
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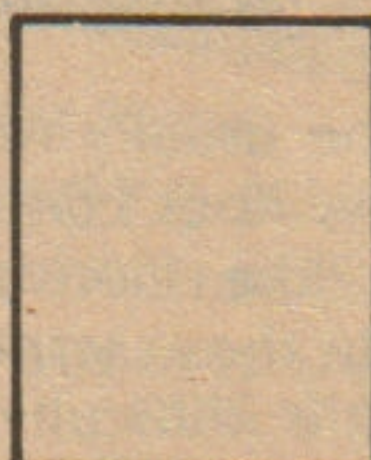
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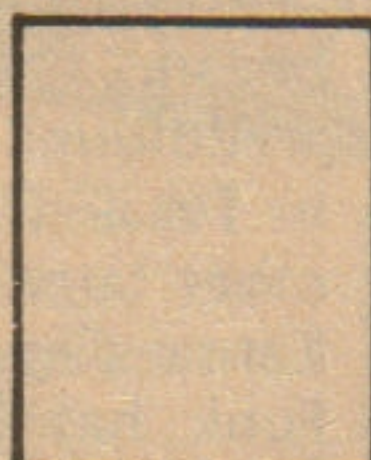
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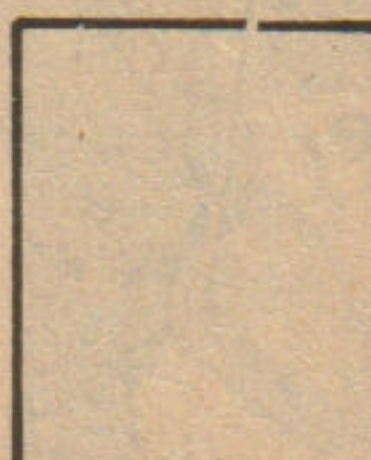
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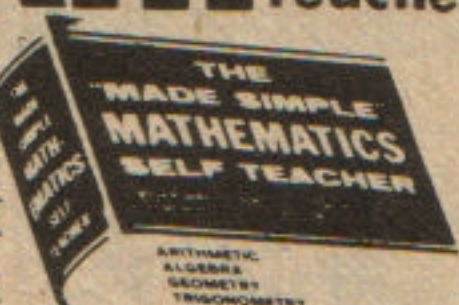
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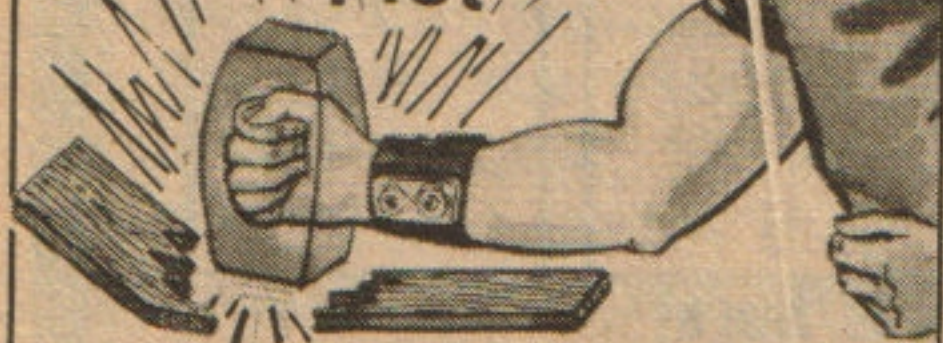
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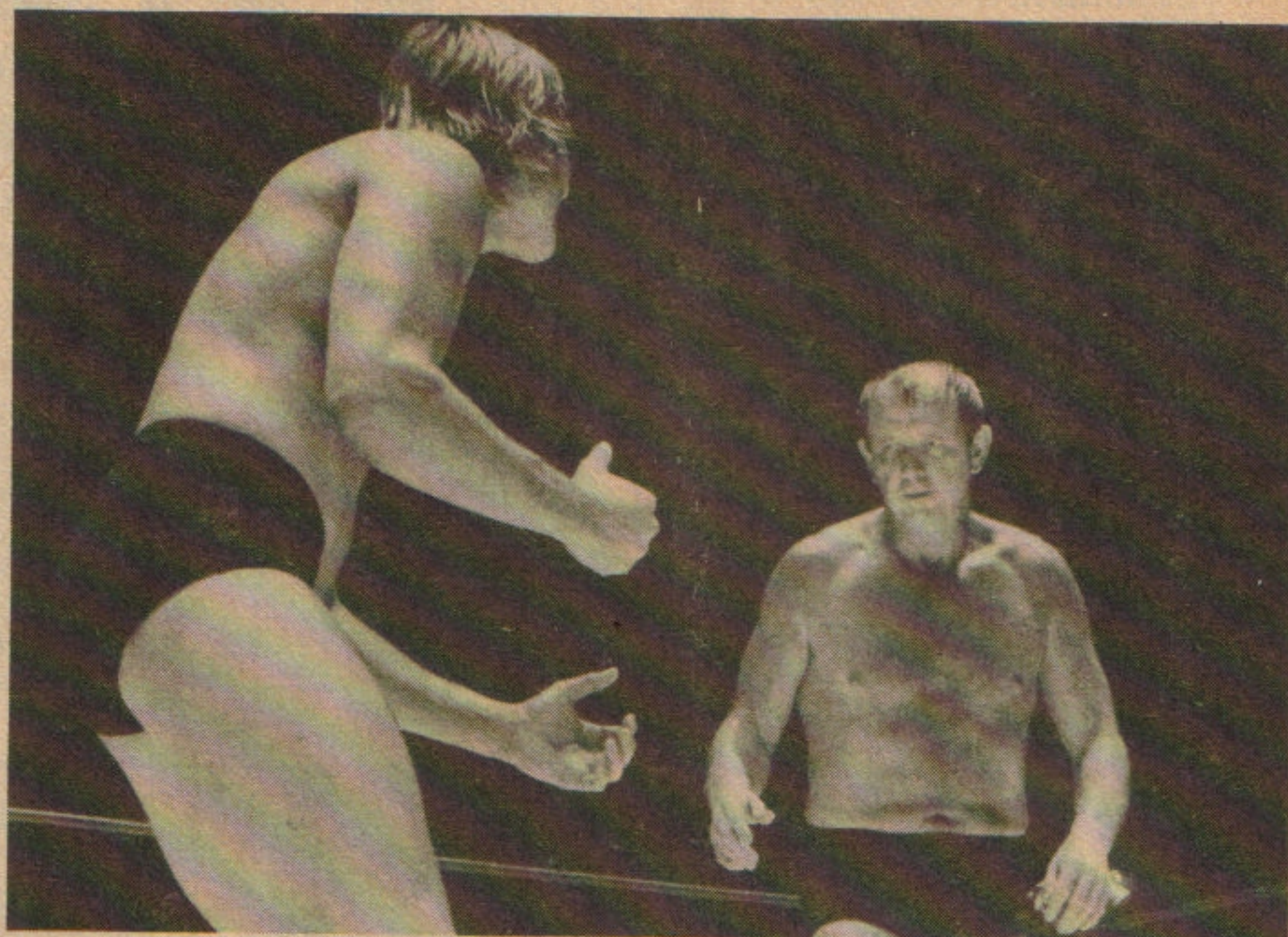
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Dory Funk

(Continued from Page 31)



Windham challenges Funk to come toward him, but Dory is cautious. Funk's inability to defeat Windham has perplexed the former NWA champion.

"It was my duty," Brisco said at the time.

Enraged, Funk started to go after Brisco. Before the two of them could engage in combat, Windham snared Funk in a cradle hold and pinned the champion. Windham became the Florida champion.

And Funk's bizarre problem began.

Although he usually wrestles in Texas, Funk does come into other areas, like Florida and Kansas City. In those territories, Funk has little difficulty with other foes. But put him against Barry Windham and...

"Nothin', I can't whip the punk and it's drivin' me up the wall," moaned Funk. "Why can't I defeat Barry Windham? I'd like to know the truth. I really would.

Terry Funk, Dory's brother, offers a remarkably candid and intriguing reason for Dory's problems.

"I think it's ain't so much that Dory can't whip Windham," said Terry. "Lookit, anyone who knows the first thing 'bout wrestlin' knows that Dory is 50

times the man Windham will ever be. And Windham really ain't good, he's lucky. He won on a freak and only 'cause Brisco illegally distracted Dory from the fight at hand.

"But Dory likes to think of himself as invincible. He don't like to think that anyone, no matter the situation, can whip him. He likes to think he could fight off a platoon of Marines with two tanks and an artillery gun aimed at his gut if he had to. And he probably could.

"So that's why this eats at him. I think it has to do with his pride. Once Dory realizes and understands that there's just no way a fair-minded man like him can always whip those determined to cheat, like Brisco, he'll sail into the ring and obliterate Windham."

But can Dory Funk Jr. ever come to that realization? Or has he become so obsessed with Barry Windham that regaining his fluid style is impossible when the foe is Windham?

"Why can't I beat that punk?" asks Dory Funk Jr. □

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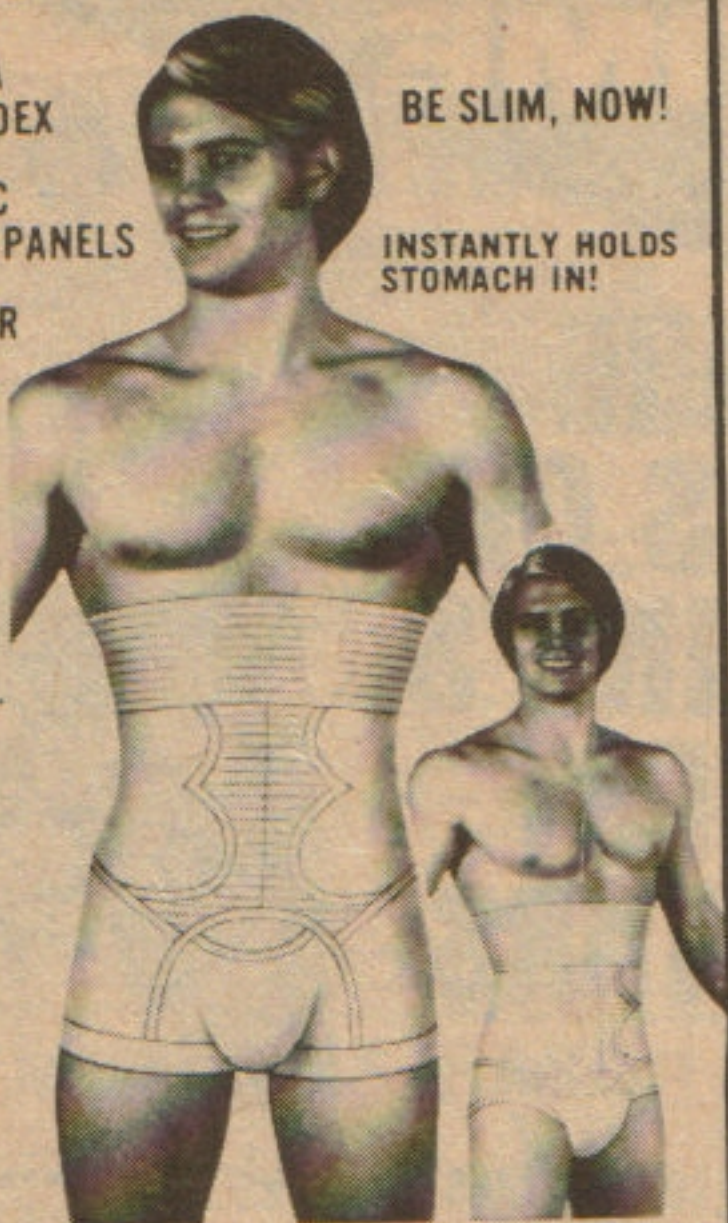
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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 23)

has courage in wrestling?
HUMPERDINK: Well, my men, Masked Assassin #1 and Masked Assassin #3, the North American tag team champions, have a lotta guts. Already Rhodes has been calling, begging for them to help his career. Then you got Sgt. Jacques Goulet, a real tough cookie who never flinches in the squared circle. And I'm

planning on handling Superfly, who I predict will be the greatest single force in wrestling within two months. Except me, of course.

APTER: Do you find your enormous ego ever gets in the way of your managing?

HUMPERDINK: What ego? To say I am the greatest, most brilliant manager who ever lived, who can out-think and

"To say I am the greatest, most brilliant manager who ever lived, who can out-think and outsmart any man in the world, is merely a statement of fact."





Humperdink has that wild look in his eyes that can only mean he is about to sneak-attack another helpless wrestler.

out-smart any man in the world, is merely a statement of fact. No one can compare with me when it comes to brilliance and courage. I am the undisputed master of Florida wrestling and very soon I'll conquer all of professional wrestling.

FARHOOD: If you did . . .

HUMPERDINK: Not if, four-eyes. When.

FARHOOD: When you conquer wrestling, what will you do?

HUMPERDINK: First of all, I'll get rid of the dead weight like Barry Windham, Manny Fernandez, and Dusty Rhodes. I'll make sure Bruno Sammartino never wrestles again. I was thinking of starting an old age home for feeble wrestlers like Verne Gagne and Sammartino. I'll set certain standards of conduct and those who fail to measure up, will be gone.

SAKS: And when do you expect this to happen?

HUMPERDINK: Very soon, Mr. Saks. Sooner than you dare even think. And don't worry, I'll take care of you press people as well.



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MORGENSTEIN REPORT

(Continued from Page 18)

SUPERFLY RETURNS

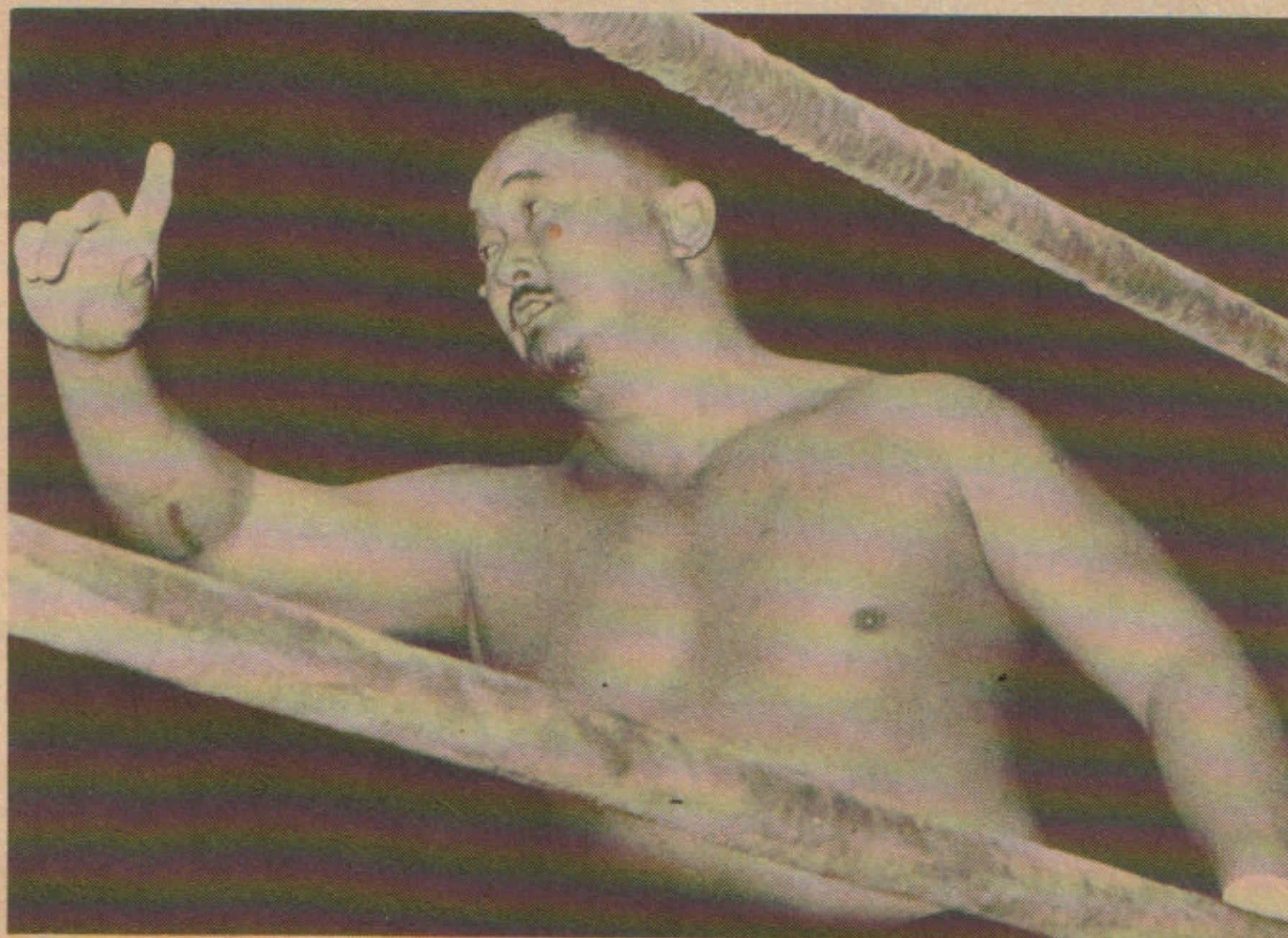
This is a real strange story. Superfly, a big masked man (maybe big is a kind word; try fat) recently terrorized Florida wrestling. His constant, sadistic usage of his boot was scrutinized by the Florida wrestling commission. After a thorough investigation, the commission decided the boot was loaded with some foreign object and Superfly was suspended. Well, due in large part to the intervention of manager Sir Oliver Humperdink, Superfly is back.

According to my sources, Humperdink produced medical testimony supporting the contention that Superfly has a terrible disability and that's why his boot is a little strange. Well, I think Humperdink is a little strange and no one, absolutely no one, should buy his contention that Superfly is physically handicapped. Mentally, perhaps, but not physically. This is yet another deceitful ploy by Humperdink as he makes his way back to the top of the Florida rulebreaking community.

STILL CHAMPIONS!

Mr. Fuji and Tenryu are still the Mid-Atlantic tag team champions. Some felt they'd surely flicker and darken after a very brief period. I never did. I've seen these guys work out and wrestle. They're extremely shrewd. They're extremely ruthless. They still stop at nothing to achieve their

objectives. Trained in the deadly Oriental arts, Mr. Fuji and Tenryu are as dangerous a tag team as exists in wrestling today. Even Dewey Robertson and George Wells, who were beaten for the title, are impressed by them. I think wrestling fans should attempt to understand this sinister pair for they're going to be around a long, long time. ☐



MR. FUJI

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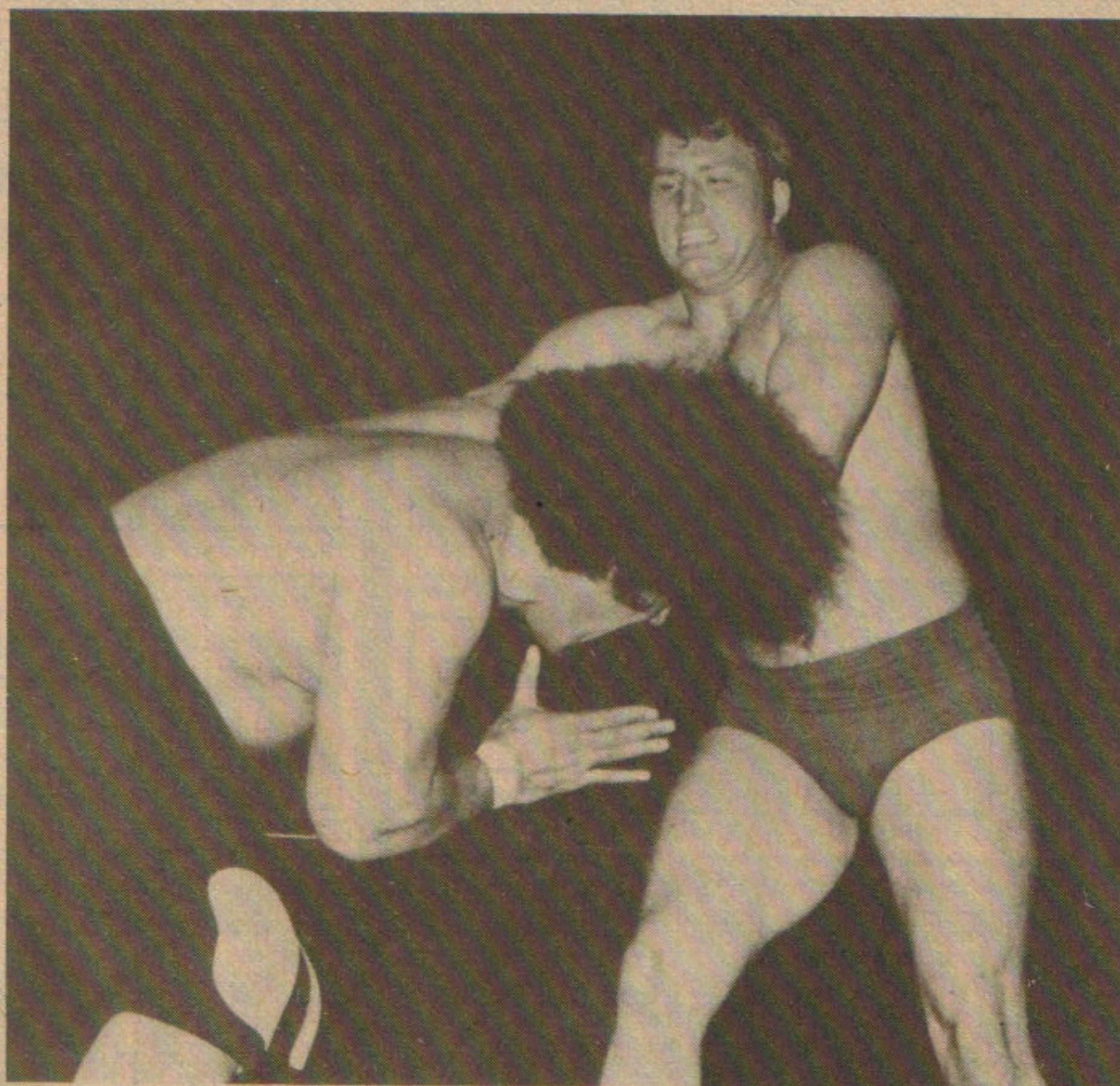
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RINGSIDE

(Continued from Page 8)



Kelly Kiniski, the son of former NWA champion Gene Kiniski, is showing great progress in this, his rookie year. Young Kelly armlocks Afa the Samoan during a brutal bout in Shreveport, Louisiana.

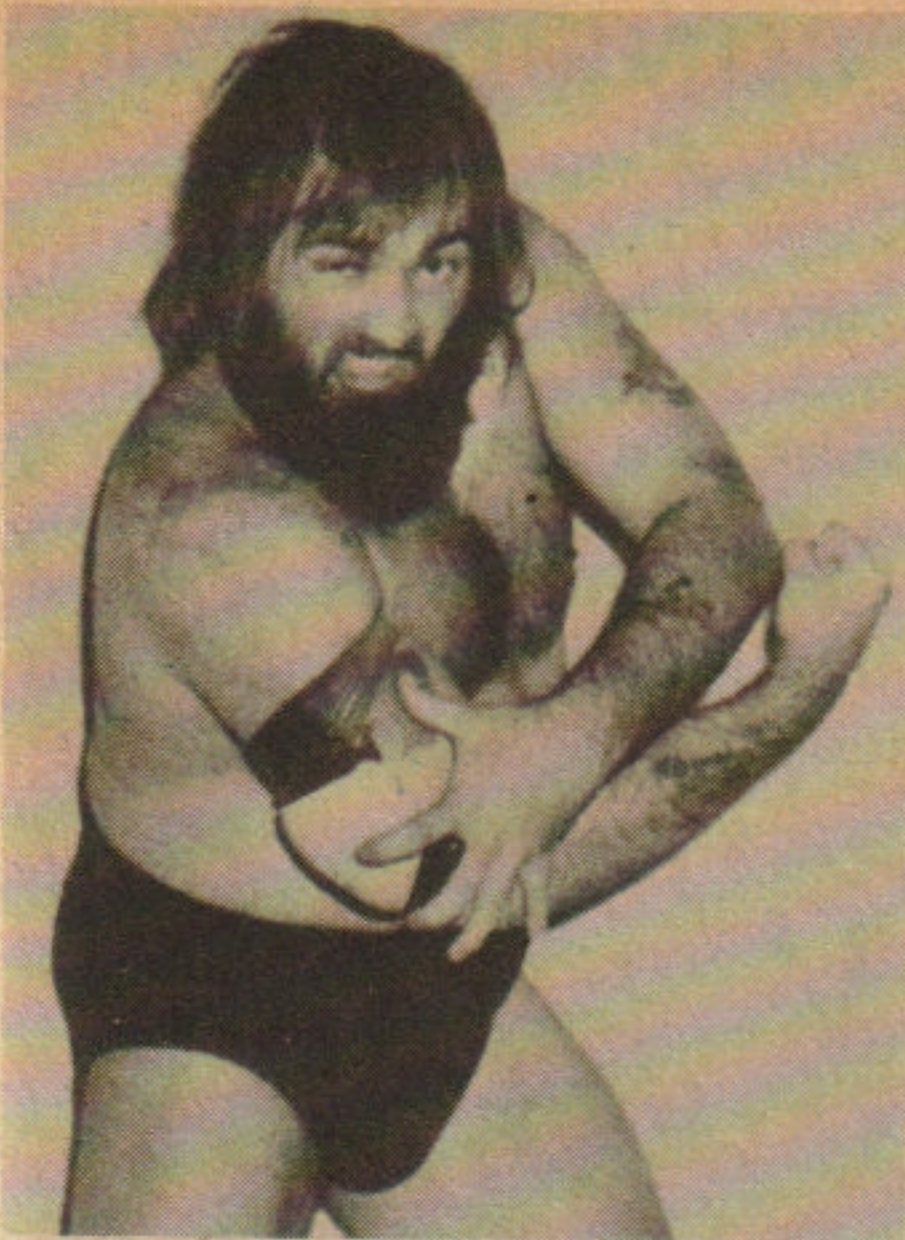
"Universal Heartthrob" Austin Idol is planning an invasion of the Mid-Atlantic region as is "Handsome" Jimmy Valiant . . . AWA tag team champions Jesse Ventura and Adrian Adonis have turned back the challenges of Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne several times now. Gagne and Brunzell, who held the belts several years ago, say they won't quit trying to regain what they feel is rightfully theirs.

The Samoans, Afa and Sike, are back and wilder than ever. After a tour of the Orient, the Samoan duo is tearing opponents apart in Louisiana . . . Kelly Kiniski, son of the former NWA champion, Gene Kiniski, is also wrestling in the Mid-South region . . . Plans are being finalized to bring Greg Valentine to the WWF under the management of The Grand Wizard.

Jerry Lawler is headed to Florida to do battle with both Dory Funk Jr. and Terry Funk . . . Mr. Fuji and Tenryu continue to hold onto the Mid-Atlantic tag team belts . . . Bruiser Brodie has warned all Georgia wrestlers that he is after every major title in the area. "I will destroy any wrestler who is put before me!" he growls.

Tommy Rich scoffs at the stories that The Fabulous Freebirds claim that he wants to be Freebird number four. "They said that I came crawlin' on my hands and knees begging to join their corporation! That's a hunk of bull!" exclaimed Tommy.

"Not so!" Michael Hayes says. "Rich keeps begging us to take him in and make him one of us. But we won't. He's a loser—nothing else. He does not fit into our brotherhood. Leave us alone Tommy Rich! You are not a good enough



Killer Brooks was a participant in a wild eight-man tag team match in Dallas, Texas.

wrestler to become a Freebird."

Jim Garvin is in special training for an upcoming title match with North American champion The Masked Grappler . . . It was a wild scene in Dallas, Texas, as the entire Von Erich crew wrestled Gary Hart and his team of Kabuki, Killer Brooks, and Chan Chung. When the dust cleared, it was the Von Erichs in charge and the rule-breakers fleeing to the safety of their dressing room.

Dusty Rhodes has got title fever again. Now that he has grappled Harley Race for the NWA title in Miami for the first time in almost a year, Dusty is convinced that the title will be his the next time they meet.

Hulk Hogan has a featured part in the upcoming movie *Rocky III* . . . Edouard Carpentier is wrestling in Michigan . . . Terry Taylor is recovering quickly from injuries sustained in a minor auto accident . . . Manager J.J. Dillon is getting back into the wrestling action. He recently wrestled Spike Huber in St. Louis, Missouri. "I believe that a good manager should get into the ring and wrestle so he can realize what his men are going through in there," Dillon said.

That's all for now. See you next time! □

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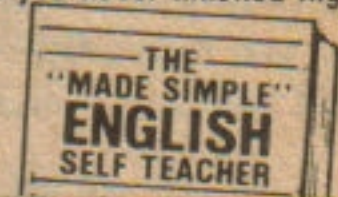
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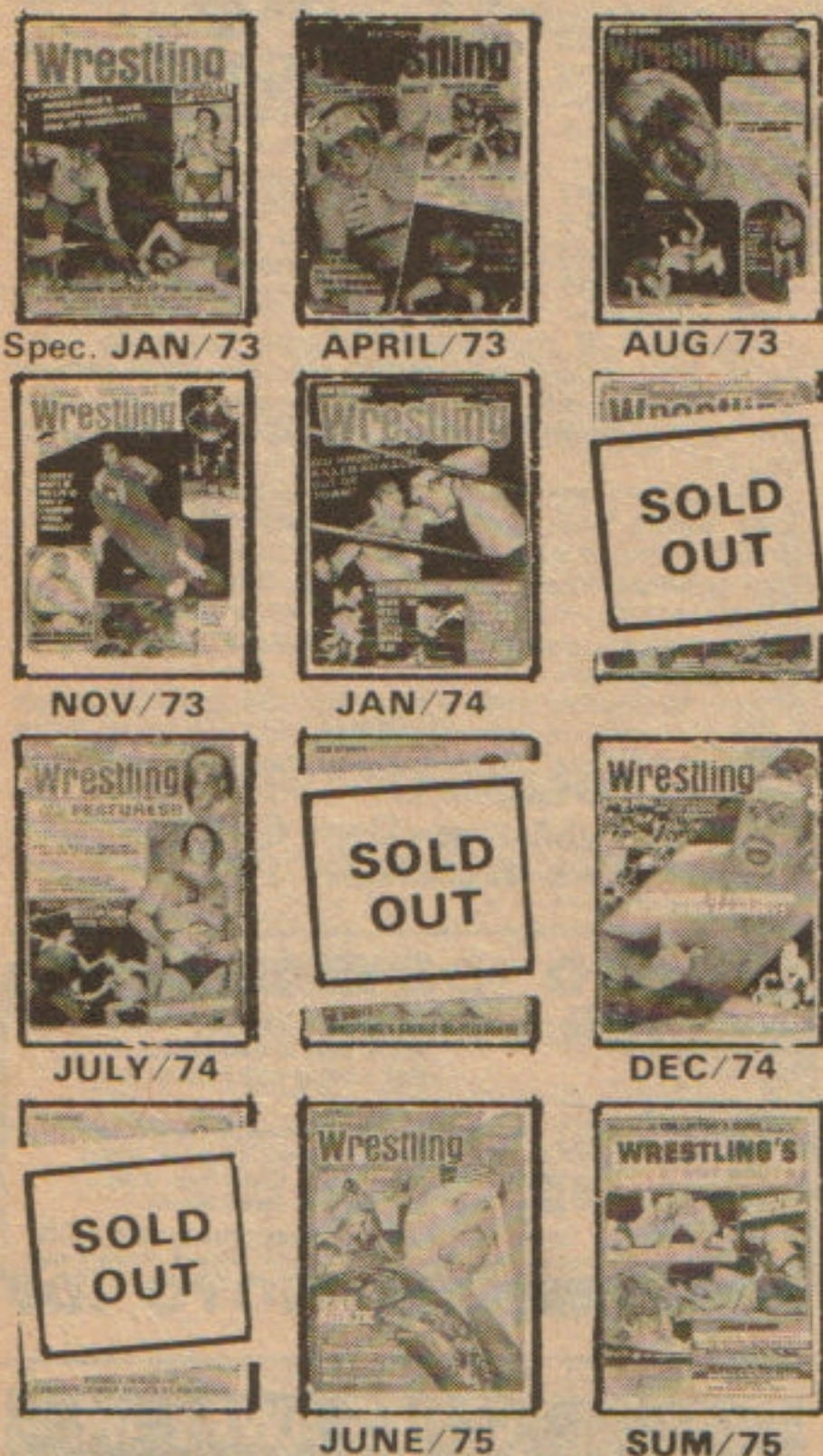
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DRESSING ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

(Continued from Page 10)

to give his title to the signed challenger.

Now, let's imagine the same situation—reversed. Funk is the champion, and for some reason he is unable to defend. Does the NWA turn around and give the belt to Barry Windham?

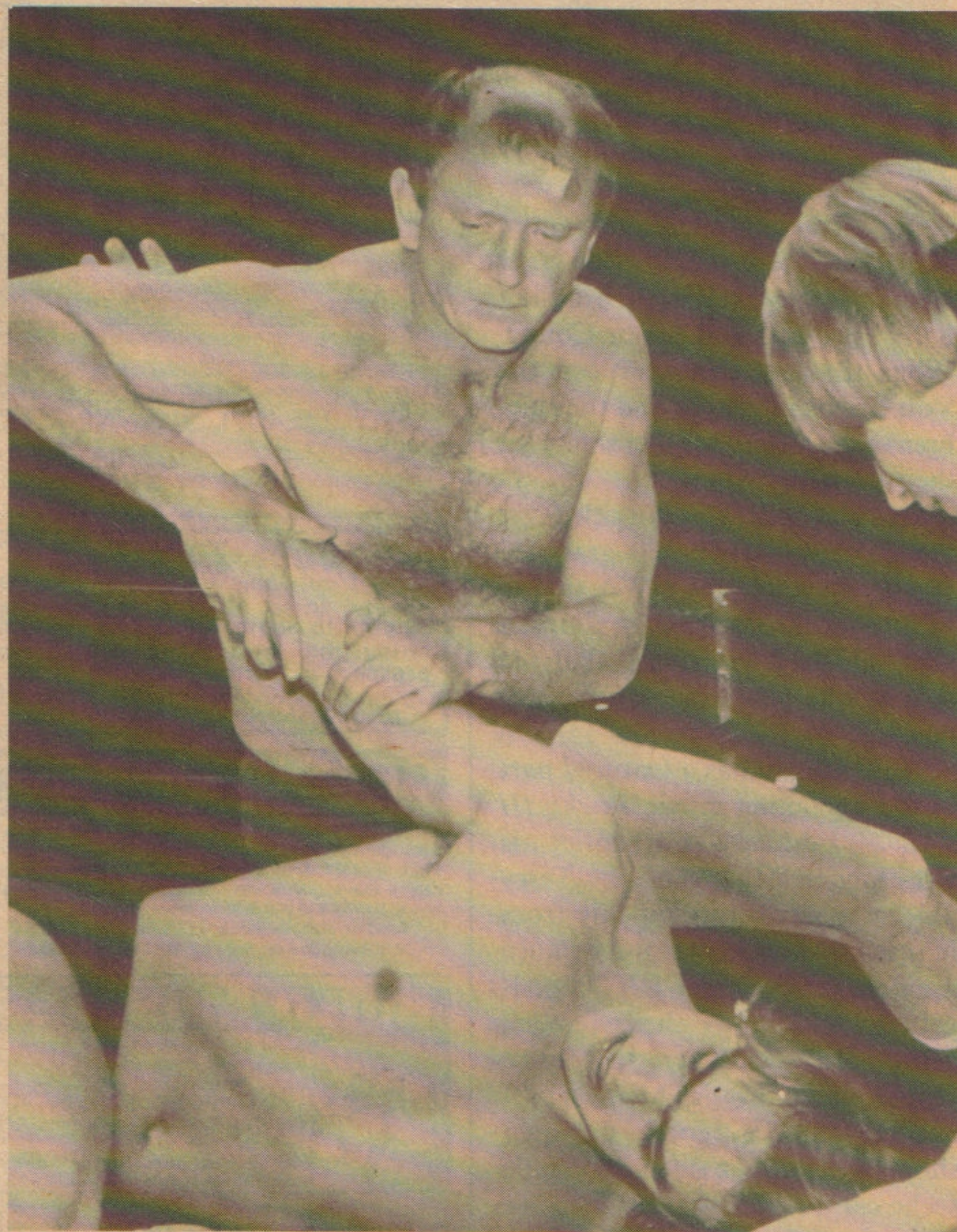
I think I know the answer, but let's throw it out to our anonymous, yet highly ranking, NWA official. "I can't see anyone telling Dory Funk Jr. that they were taking away his title."

It's extremely discomfoting to know that the NWA will lean over

backwards for the same men that make a mockery of this sport's rules, and at the same time it discriminates against young scientific wrestlers, who provide the only hope for the sport's future.

DON'T COUNT Bulldog Brower out!

It's almost a pleasure to see Bulldog Brower back wrestling in Madison Square Garden, the building this man packed with fans on several occasions with his unique brand of wrestling mayhem.



Dory Funk has always had a great deal of trouble with the youthful Windham. He didn't beat Barry, but he still got his belt.

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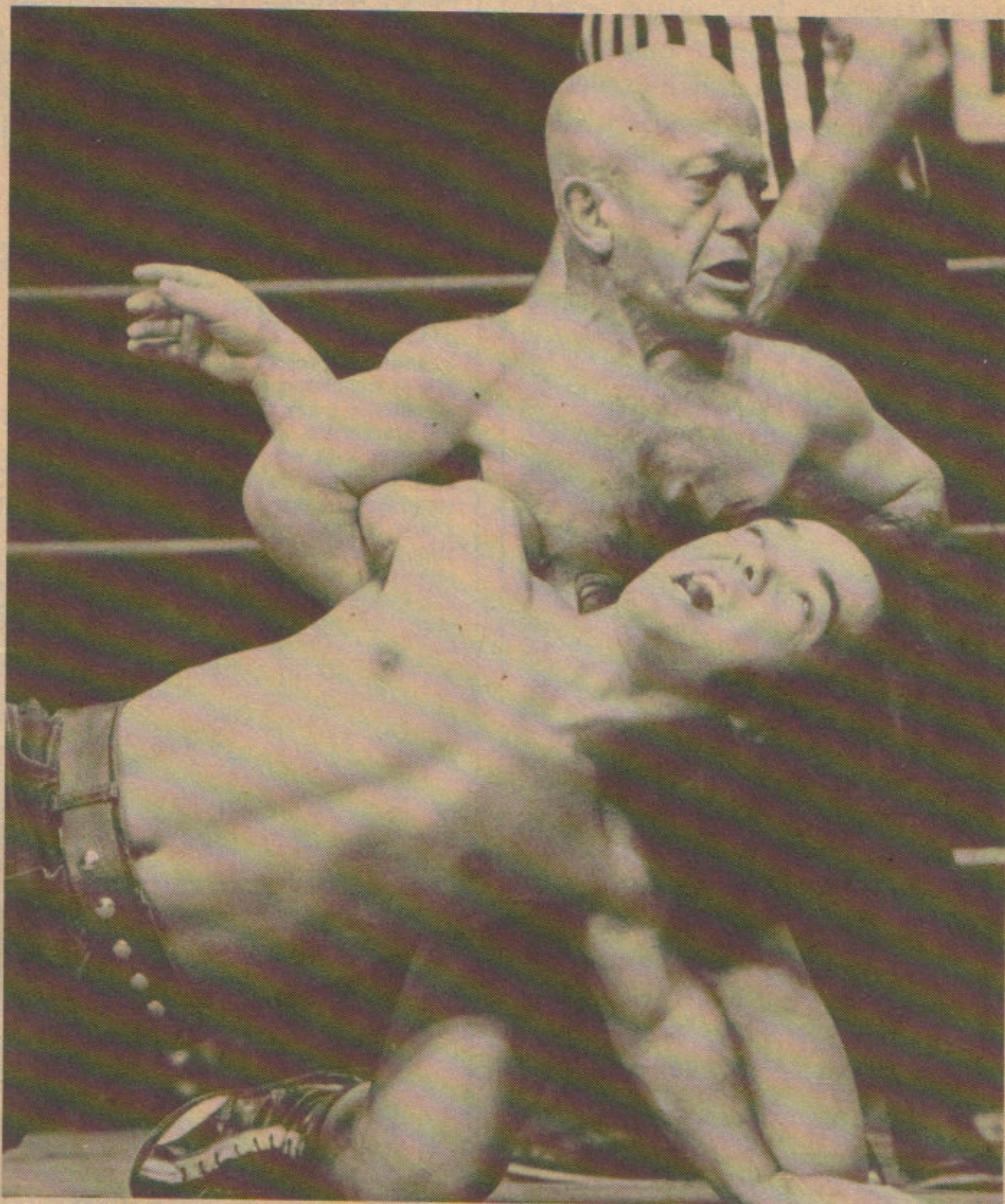
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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from Page 12)



Sky Low Low is momentarily distracted by the taunts of the crowds as he locks up Farmer Jerome. Some fans are insensitive to the feelings of midget wrestlers, though Sky is grateful for the respect he receives from his peers.

"Look," he said, his voice suddenly deeper and more serious, "God plays favorites. I could look at my being a midget as His little insult. But I don't. I was born with tremendous strength and quickness. Not everyone has natural athletic ability. If I were 5'10" and just an average guy, do you think I would've come as far as I have?"

I had to ask the next question. I didn't want to, but I had to. I had to know.

"Tell me the truth, Sky," I said. "If you could start it all over again, would you rather have

been born six feet tall?"

Tears filled his sensitive eyes. He tried to hide them, but he knew I had noticed. He raised his beer mug to his mouth, took a long swallow, and spoke softly.

"Here I am sitting on a bar stool, facing you, and my eyes are level with your belly-button," he began. "You think I like that? I've taken a lot of abuse over the years from guys I wanted to cold-cock. And as big as they were, I know I could've laid them out, too. But I stayed back and took it. Being who I was I had to.

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"Guys would come up to me and start petting me and asking me if they could take me home as their pet, stuff like that. I'll never forget one time, it was after a bout in Chicago. I was with Fuzzy Cupid, and we were midget tag team partners at the time. We went to rent a car, and the attendant tells us to wait a few minutes. Then he comes back with one of those toy Matchbox cars and tells us to hop in and take a test drive. He was laughing all over himself. Fuzzy and I just looked at each other and walked out.

"But for all the insults, I can honestly say one thing. I have never felt uncomfortable in the arena, with the other wrestlers and the fans. Andre the Giant, Edouard Carpentier, these guys have been my best friends for a long time. And the fans have been marvelous. Sometimes I think I'm coming back just for them. They appreciate me for what I am, a hard-working athlete and a champion. I've never had any trouble from any of them."

Sky took another swallow of his beer and then we were both quiet for a while. He was thinking. Thinking about his past. And his future. And I was thinking about how much better off we are with a man like Sky Low Low in our world. ☐

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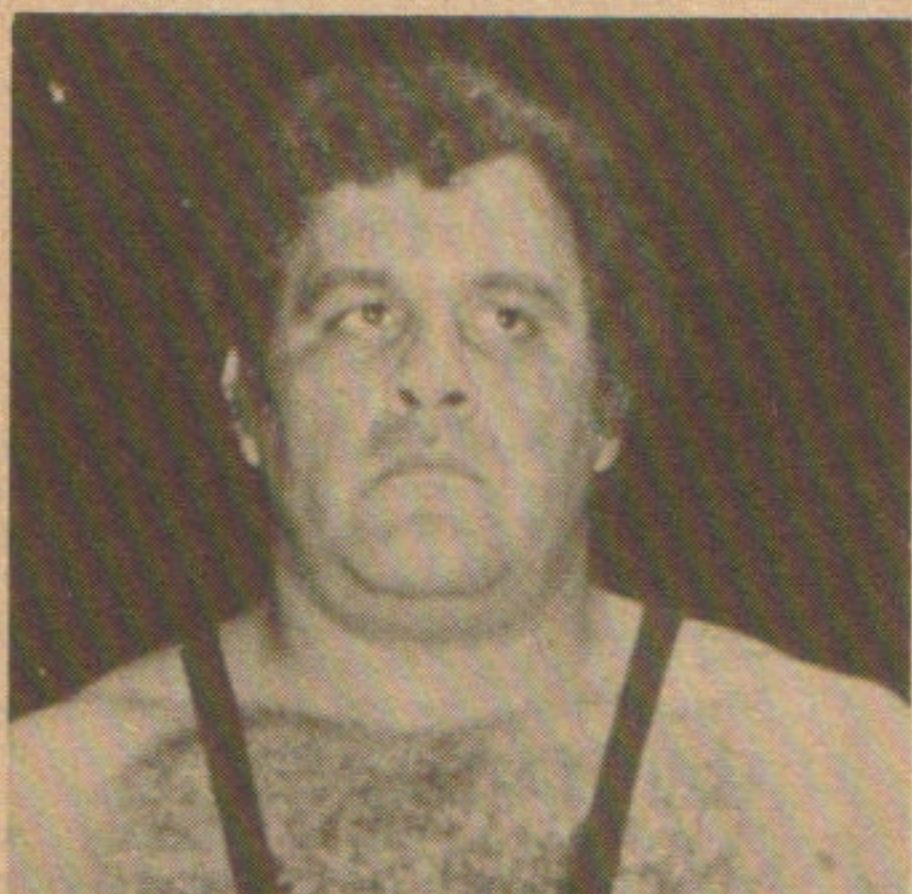
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TAG TEAMS

1
PAUL JONES & MASKED SUPERSTAR

2
THE MOONDOGS

3
JESSE VENTURA & ADRIAN ADONIS

4
THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS

5
THE ASSASSINS

6
MASKED GRAPPLER &
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7
MR. FUJI & TENRYU

8
KEVIN & DAVID VON ERICH

9
THE SAMOANS

10
MASSA FUCHI & MR. ONIETA

MOST POPULAR

1
ANDRE THE GIANT

2
DUSTY RHODES

3
BRUNO SAMMARTINO

4
MIL MASCARAS

5
BOB BACKLUND

6
WAHOO McDANIEL

7
BARON VON RASCHKE

8
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9
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10
TED DiBIASE



ANDRE THE GIANT

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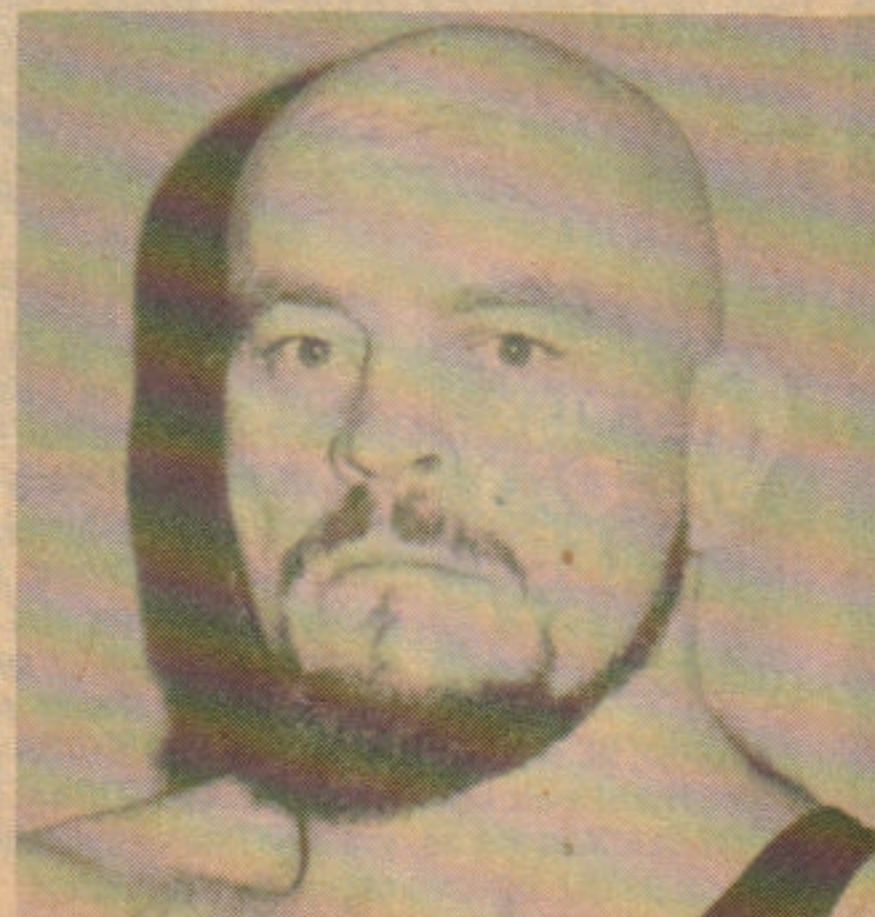
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